IDW

37

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

STANLEY · THOMAS · GRAHAM

SEGA®

STORY
EVAN STANLEY

ART
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

COLORS
REGGIE GRAHAM

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RILEY FARMER

EDITOR
DAVID MARIOTTE

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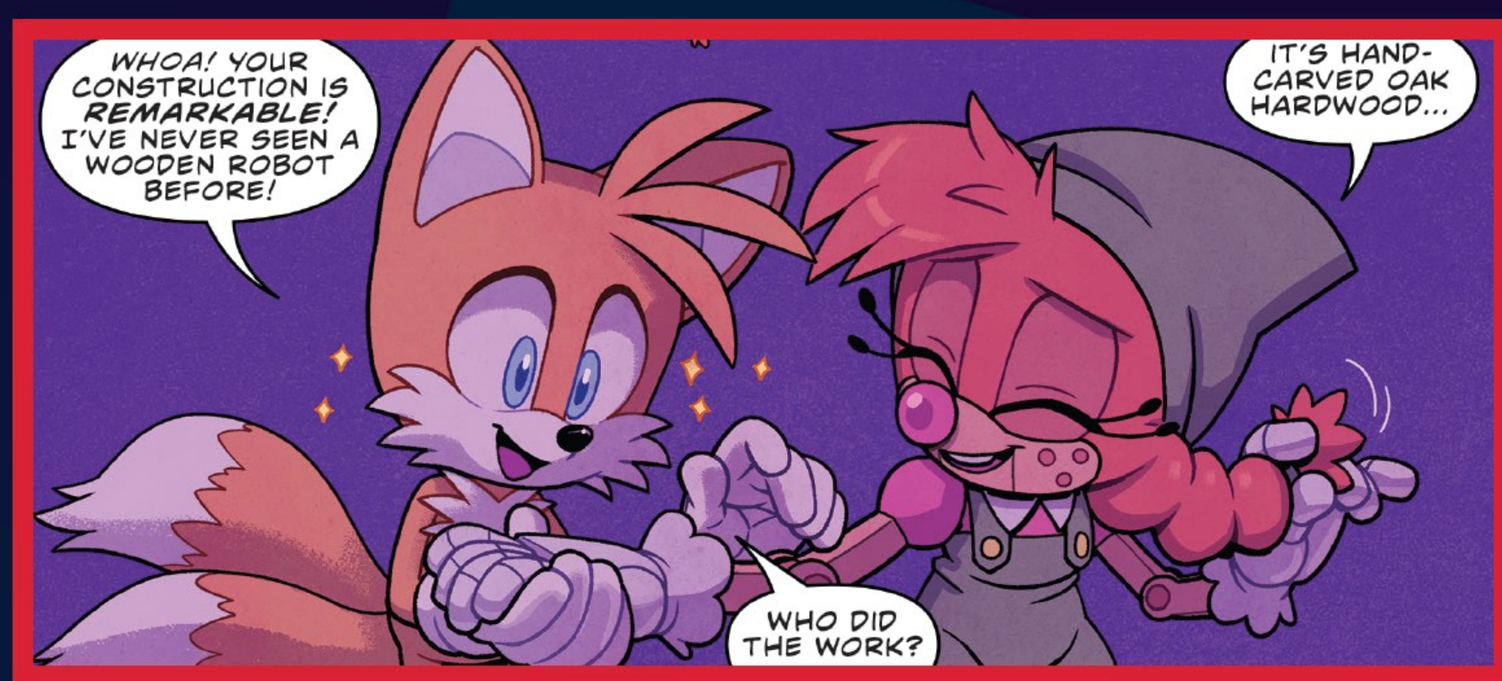
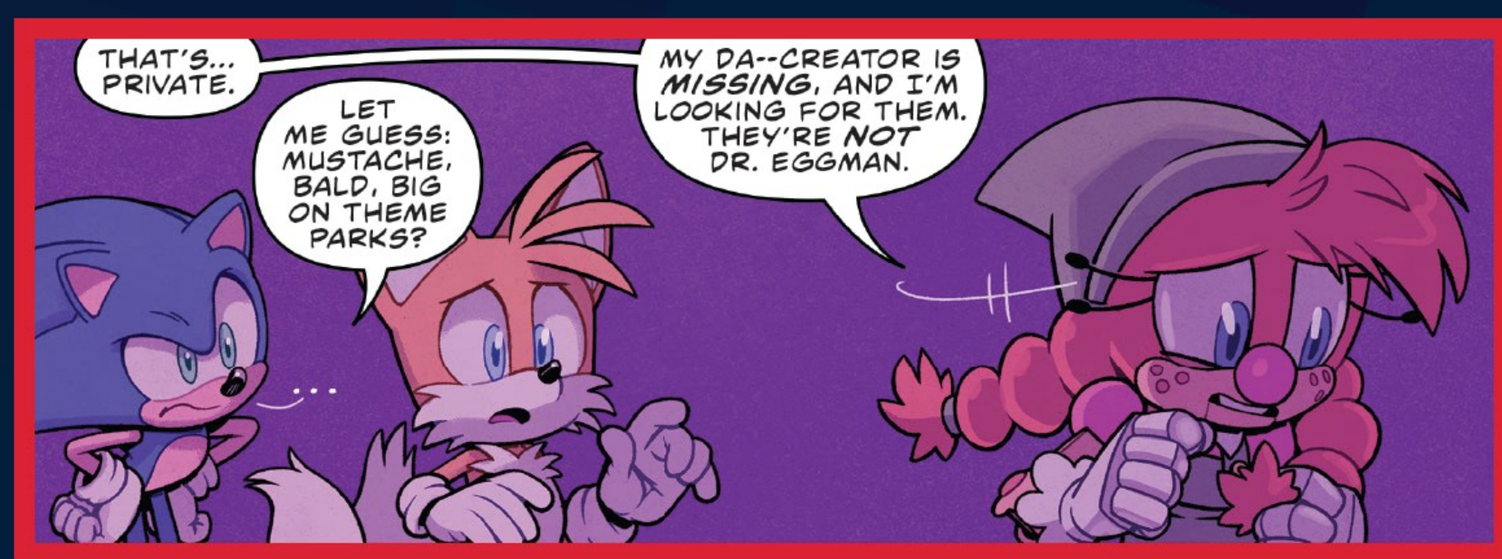
THE OTHER WAY AROUND, ACTUALLY. SHE TOLD ME HOW YOU WEREN'T ENJOYING THE RIGORS OF RUNNING THINGS--AND THAT WAS BEFORE THE PLAGUE.
I ENJOY CATALOGING AND ORGANIZING. I SEE THIS ROOM AND FEEL EXCITED AT THE IDEA OF BRINGING IT ALL TO ORDER.

STORY SO FAR

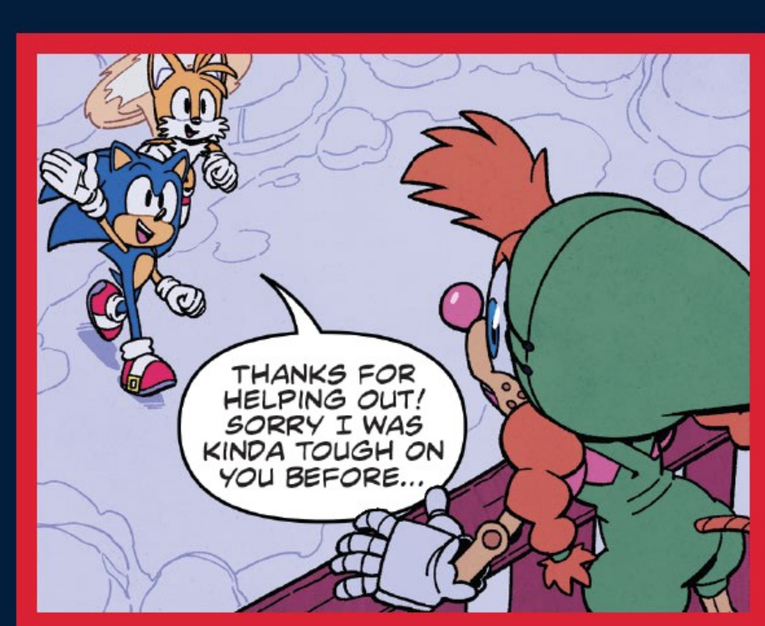
THANK YOU.
O-OH MY. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO... STRAINED.

SORRY... WHEN WE RUN INTO ROBOTS, THEY'RE USUALLY PART OF EGGMAN'S ARMY. I'M TAILS, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
UH, BELLE...


WHOA! YOUR CONSTRUCTION IS REMARKABLE! I'VE NEVER SEEN A WOODEN ROBOT BEFORE!
IT'S HAND-CARVED OAK HARDWOOD...
WHO DID THE WORK?


THAT'S... PRIVATE.
LET ME GUESS: MUSTACHE, BALD, BIG ON THEME PARKS?
MY DA--CREATOR IS MISSING, AND I'M LOOKING FOR THEM. THEY'RE NOT DR. EGGMAN.

KLIK-DING


THANKS FOR HELPING OUT! SORRY I WAS KINDA TOUGH ON YOU BEFORE...

SPEAKING OF, I COULD USE SOME HELP BACK AT MY WORKSHOP, IF YOU WOULD... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WAIT. REALLY? YOU WANT MY HELP IN YOUR WORKSHOP?!
YES...?
YES! ABSOLUTELY!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.

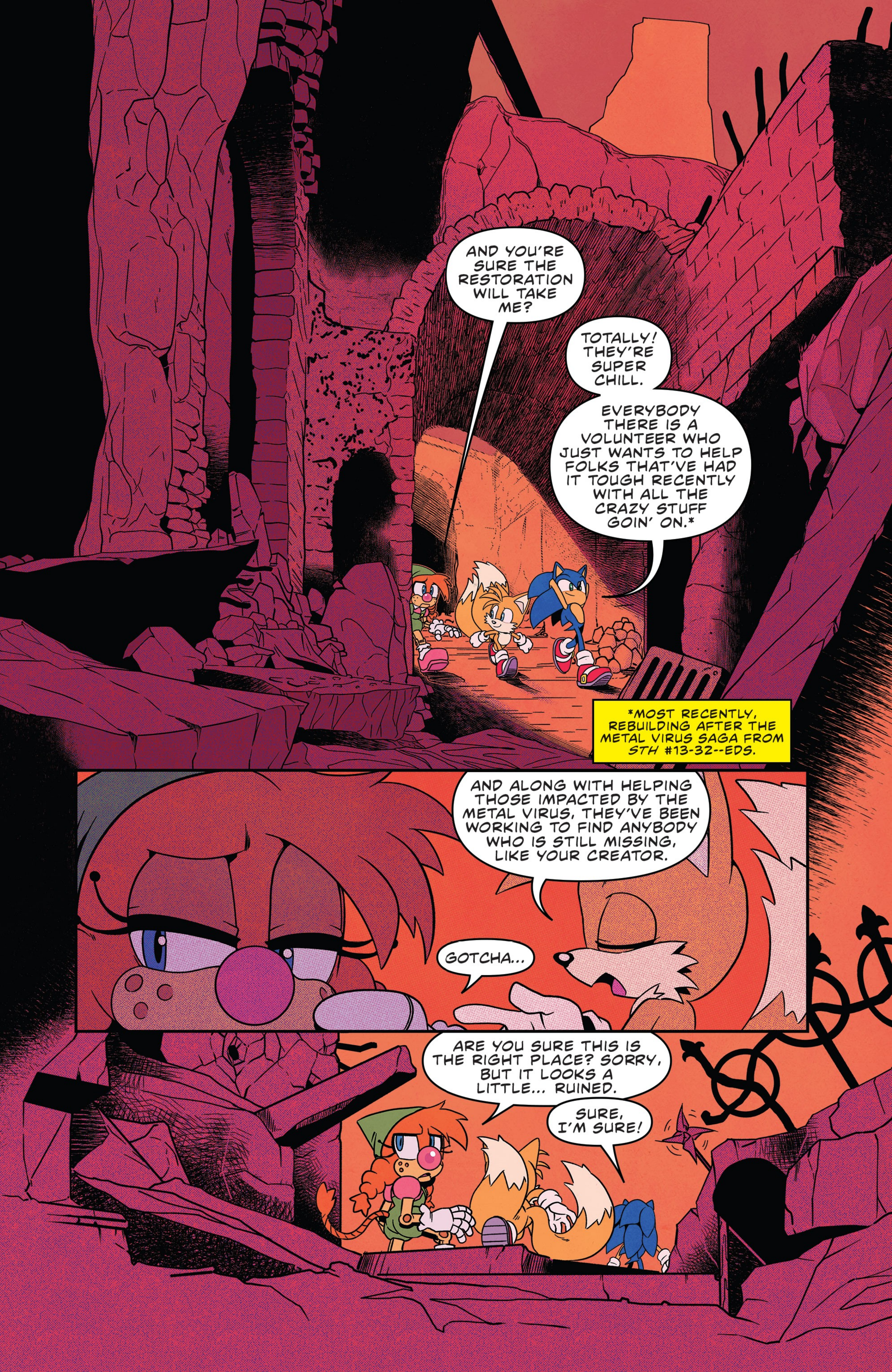
AMY ROSE
Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

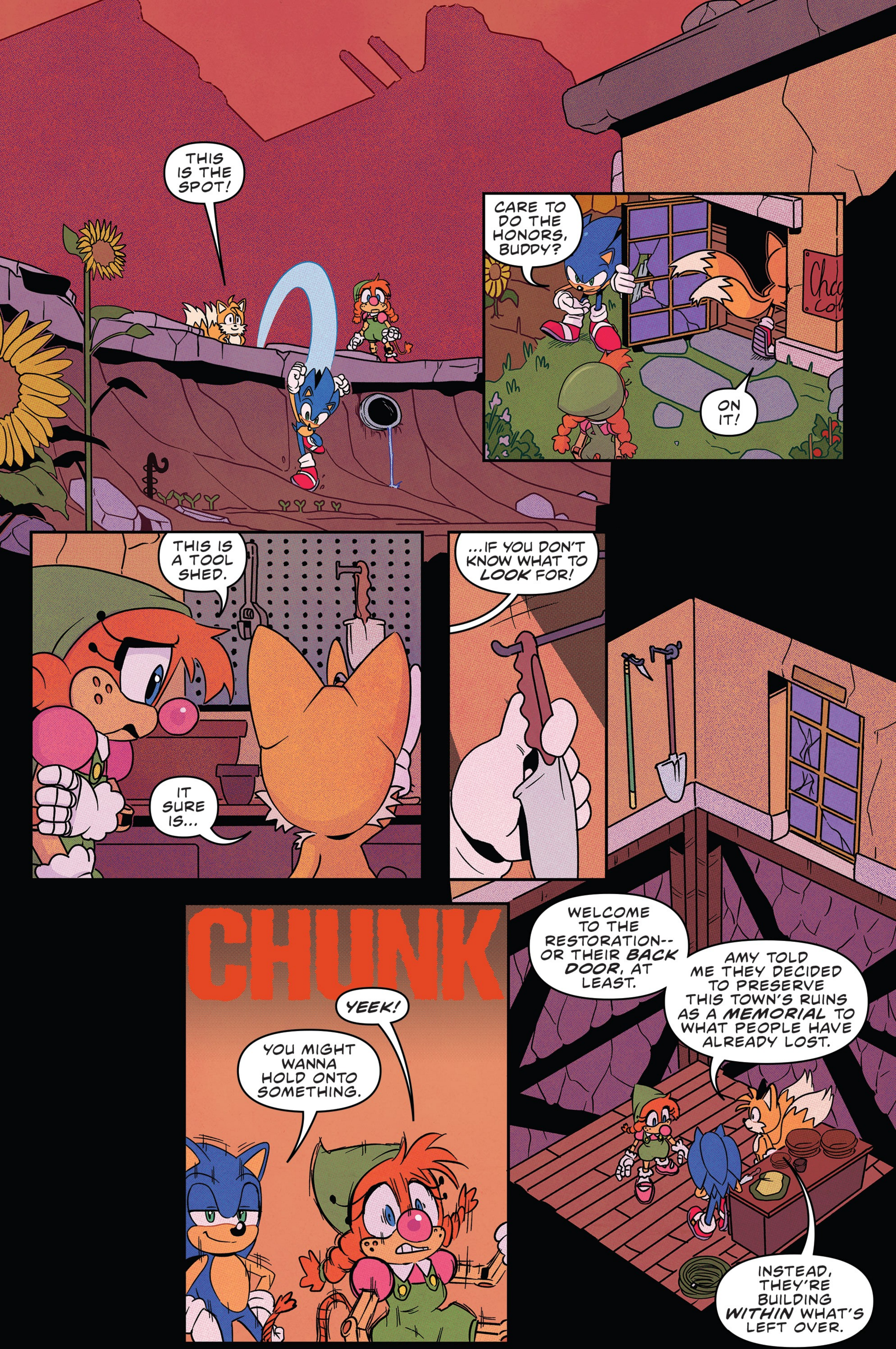
MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

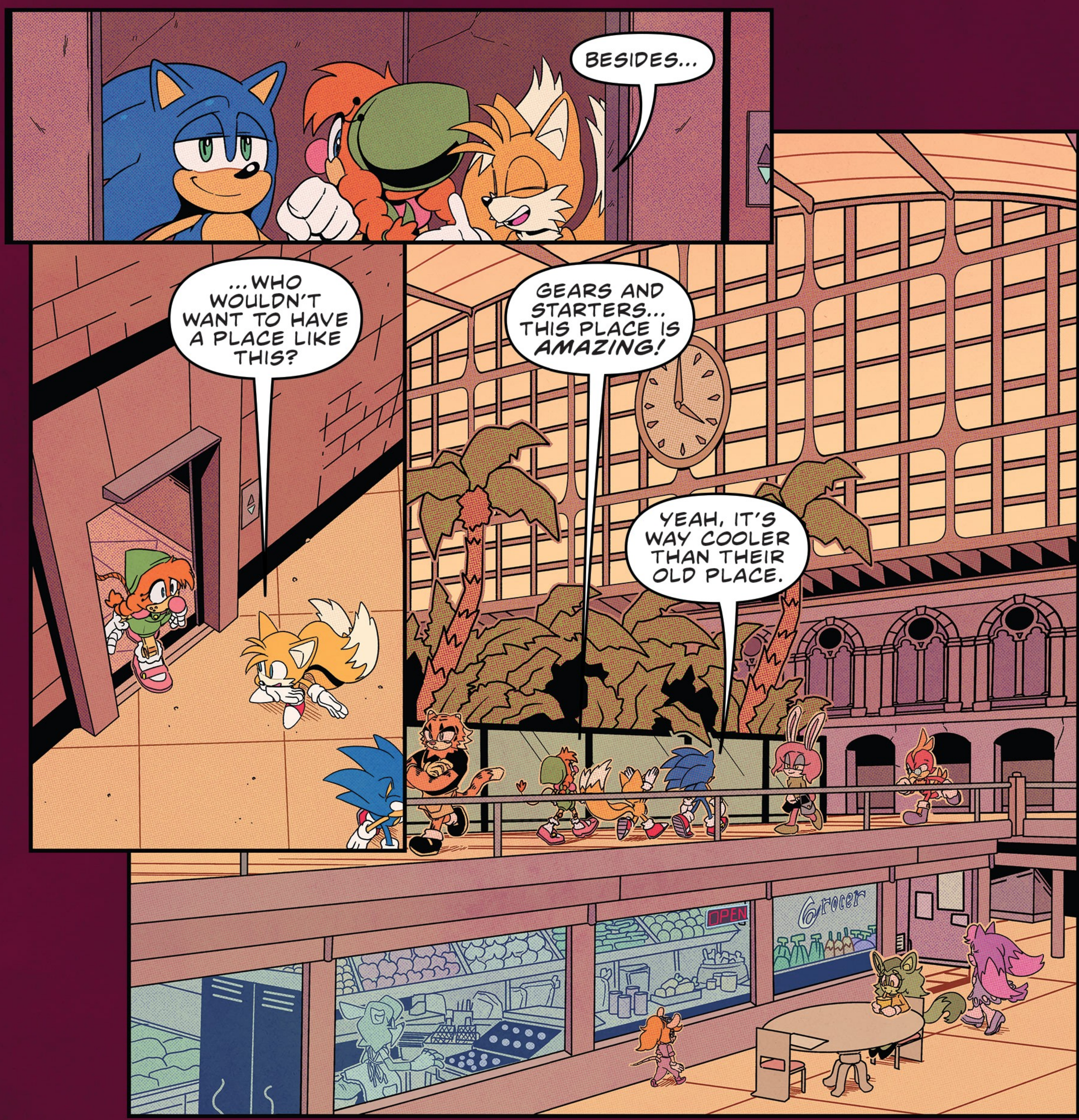
JEWEL THE BEETLE
Crystal Curator.
Restoration leader.

TANGLE THE LEMUR
Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.

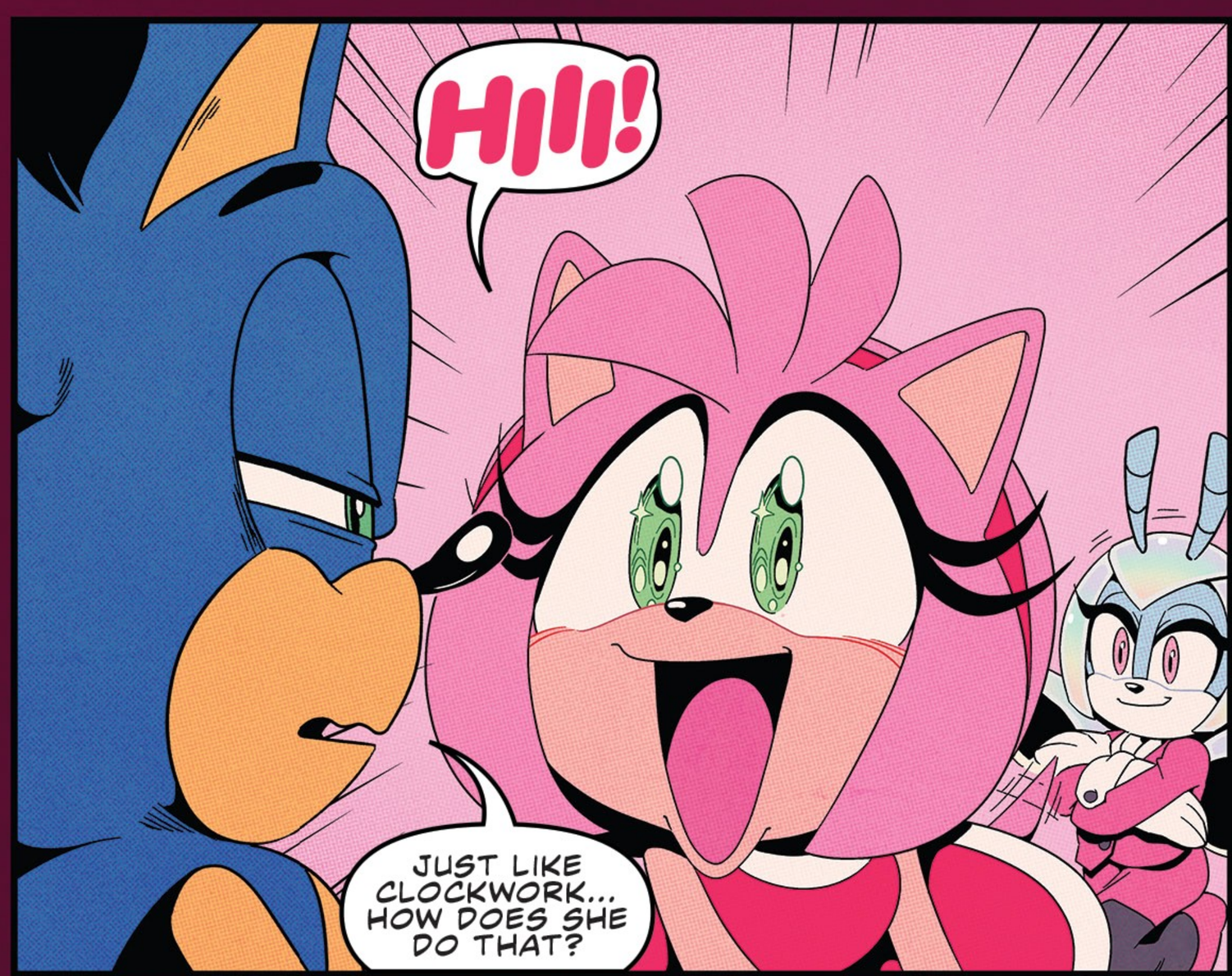
BELLE THE TINKERER
Enthusiastic new-comer.
Clumsy Marionette.

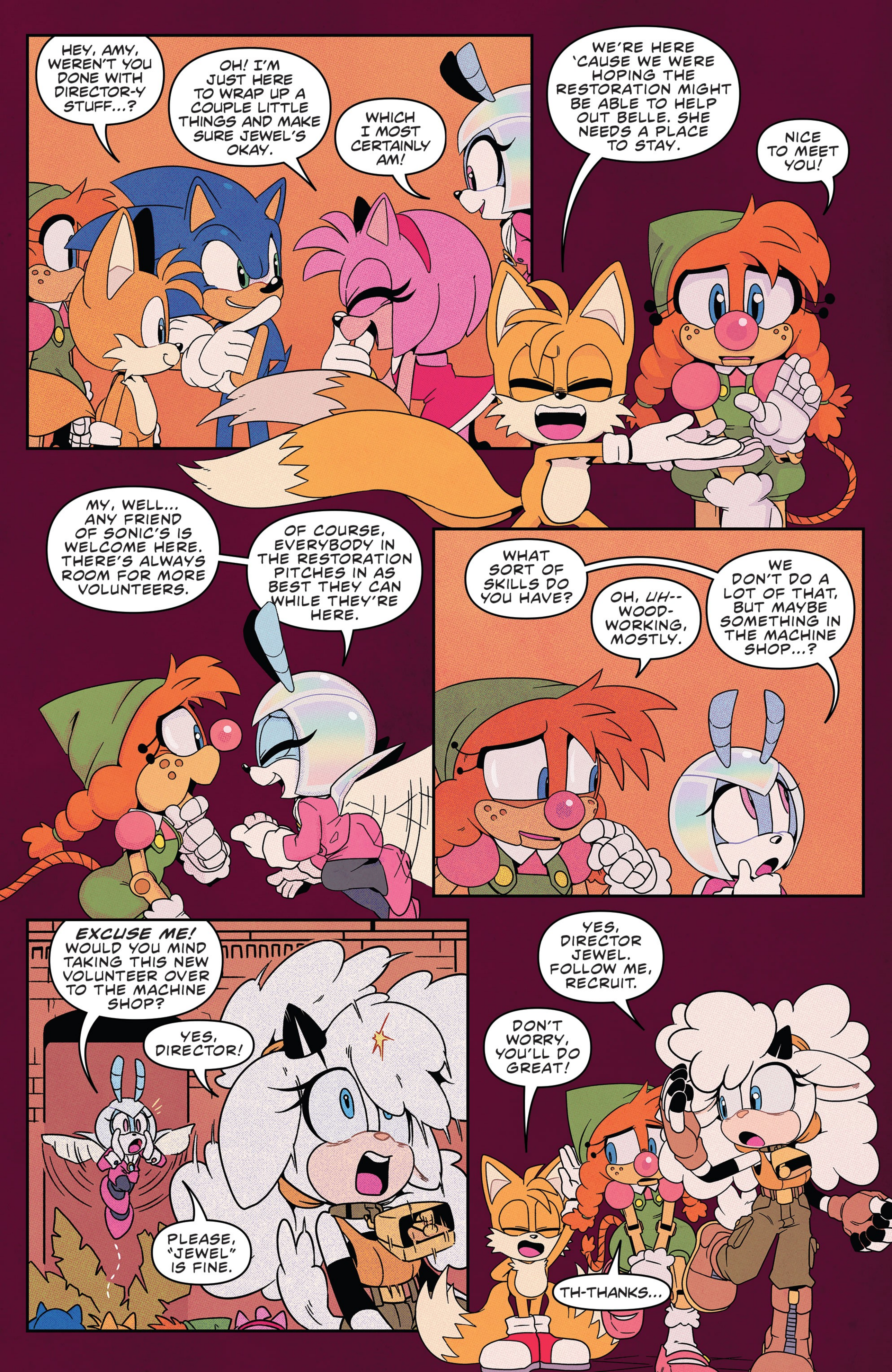

AND YOU'RE SURE THE RESTORATION WILL TAKE ME?
TOTALLY! THEY'RE SUPER CHILL.
EVERYBODY THERE IS A VOLUNTEER WHO JUST WANTS TO HELP FOLKS THAT'VE HAD IT TOUGH RECENTLY WITH ALL THE CRAZY STUFF GOIN' ON.*
*MOST RECENTLY, REBUILDING AFTER THE METAL VIRUS SAGA FROM STH #13-32--EDS.
AND ALONG WITH HELPING THOSE IMPACTED BY THE METAL VIRUS, THEY'VE BEEN WORKING TO FIND ANYBODY WHO IS STILL MISSING, LIKE YOUR CREATOR.
GOTCHA...
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE? SORRY, BUT IT LOOKS A LITTLE... RUINED.
SURE, I'M SURE!

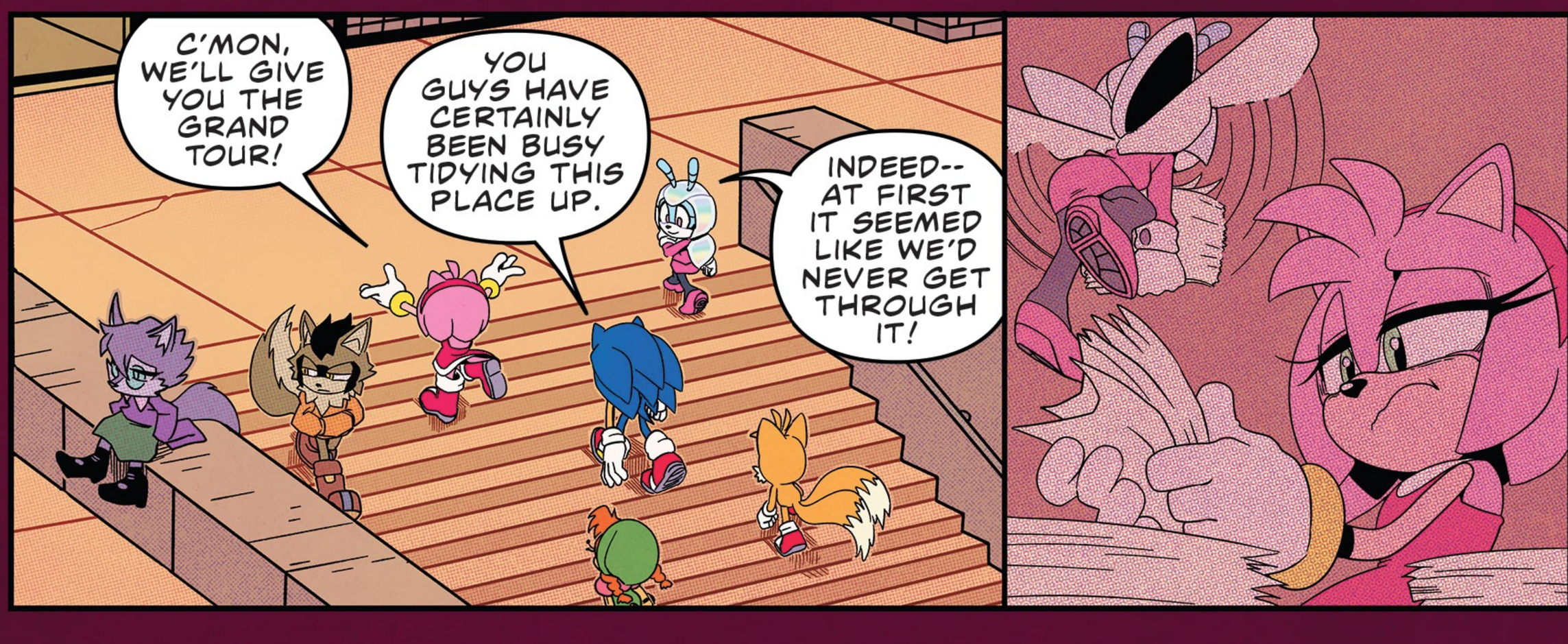

THIS IS THE SPOT!
CARE TO DO THE HONORS, BUDDY?
ON IT!
THIS IS A TOOL SHED.
IT SURE IS...
...IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR!
CHUNK
YEEK!
YOU MIGHT WANNA HOLD ONTO SOMETHING.
WELCOME TO THE RESTORATION--OR THEIR BACK DOOR, AT LEAST.
AMY TOLD ME THEY DECIDED TO PRESERVE THIS TOWN'S RUINS AS A MEMORIAL TO WHAT PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY LOST.
INSTEAD, THEY'RE BUILDING WITHIN WHAT'S LEFT OVER.

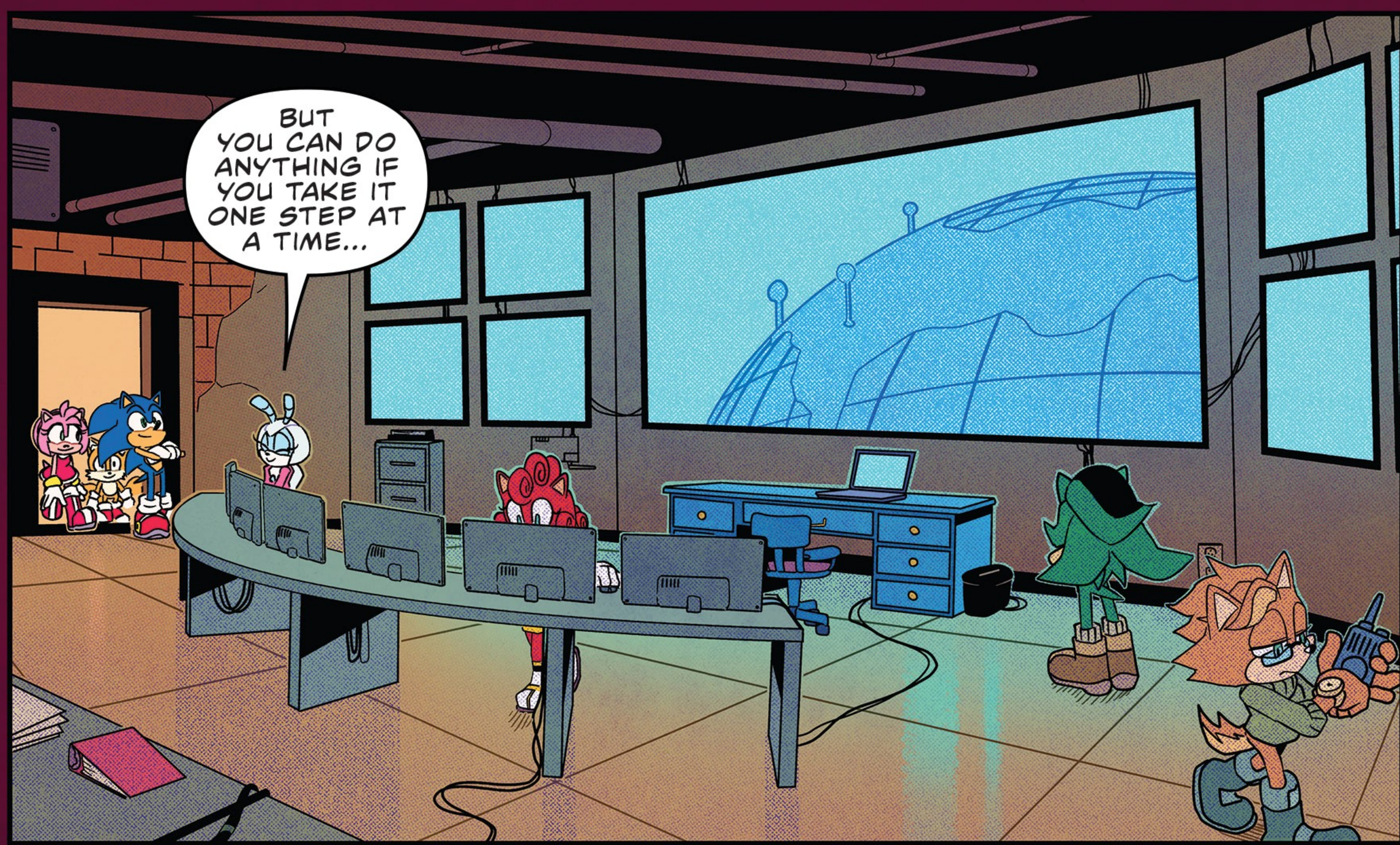

BESIDES...
...WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE A PLACE LIKE THIS?
GEARS AND STARTERS... THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!
YEAH, IT'S WAY COOLER THAN THEIR OLD PLACE.
OPEN
Grocer

HM. WHERE DO YA SUPPOSE WE COULD FIND--?
. . .
SONIC!


Hi!!
JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK... HOW DOES SHE DO THAT?

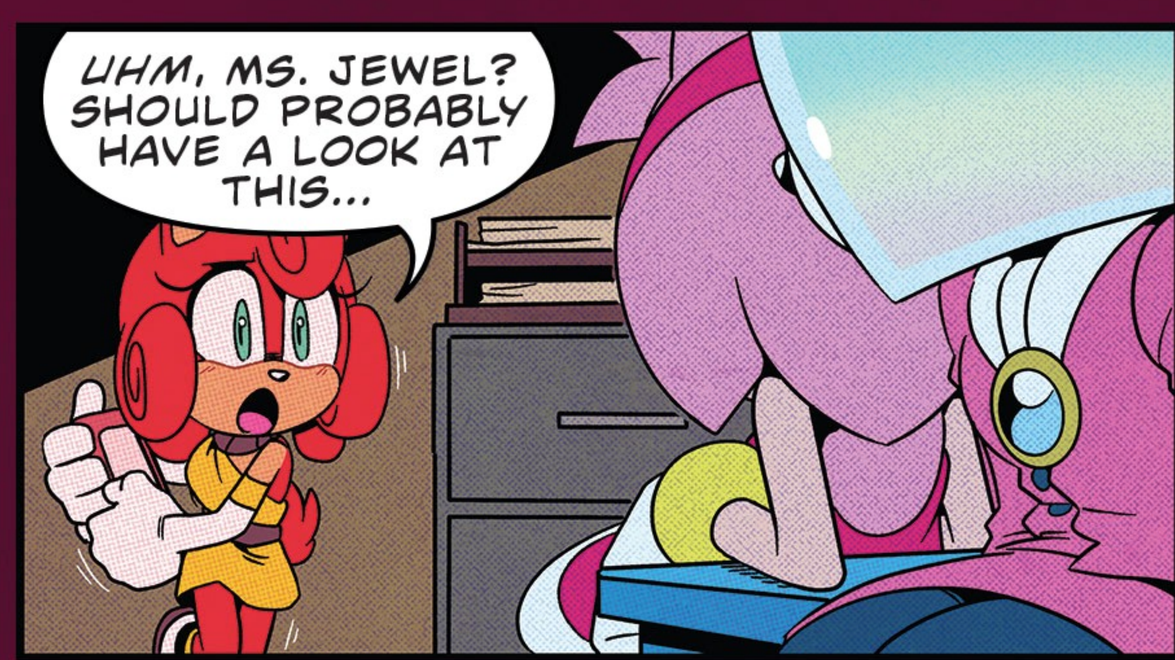

HEY, AMY, WEREN'T YOU DONE WITH DIRECTOR-Y STUFF...?
OH! I'M JUST HERE TO WRAP UP A COUPLE LITTLE THINGS AND MAKE SURE JEWEL'S OKAY.
WHICH I MOST CERTAINLY AM!
WE'RE HERE 'CAUSE WE WERE HOPING THE RESTORATION MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OUT BELLE. SHE NEEDS A PLACE TO STAY.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
MY, WELL... ANY FRIEND OF SONIC'S IS WELCOME HERE. THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.
OF COURSE, EVERYBODY IN THE RESTORATION PITCHES IN AS BEST THEY CAN WHILE THEY'RE HERE.
WHAT SORT OF SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?
OH, UH-- WOOD-WORKING, MOSTLY.
WE DON'T DO A LOT OF THAT, BUT MAYBE SOMETHING IN THE MACHINE SHOP...?
EXCUSE ME! WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THIS NEW VOLUNTEER OVER TO THE MACHINE SHOP?
YES, DIRECTOR!
PLEASE, "JEWEL" IS FINE.
YES, DIRECTOR JEWEL. FOLLOW ME, RECRUIT.
DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL DO GREAT!
TH-THANKS...

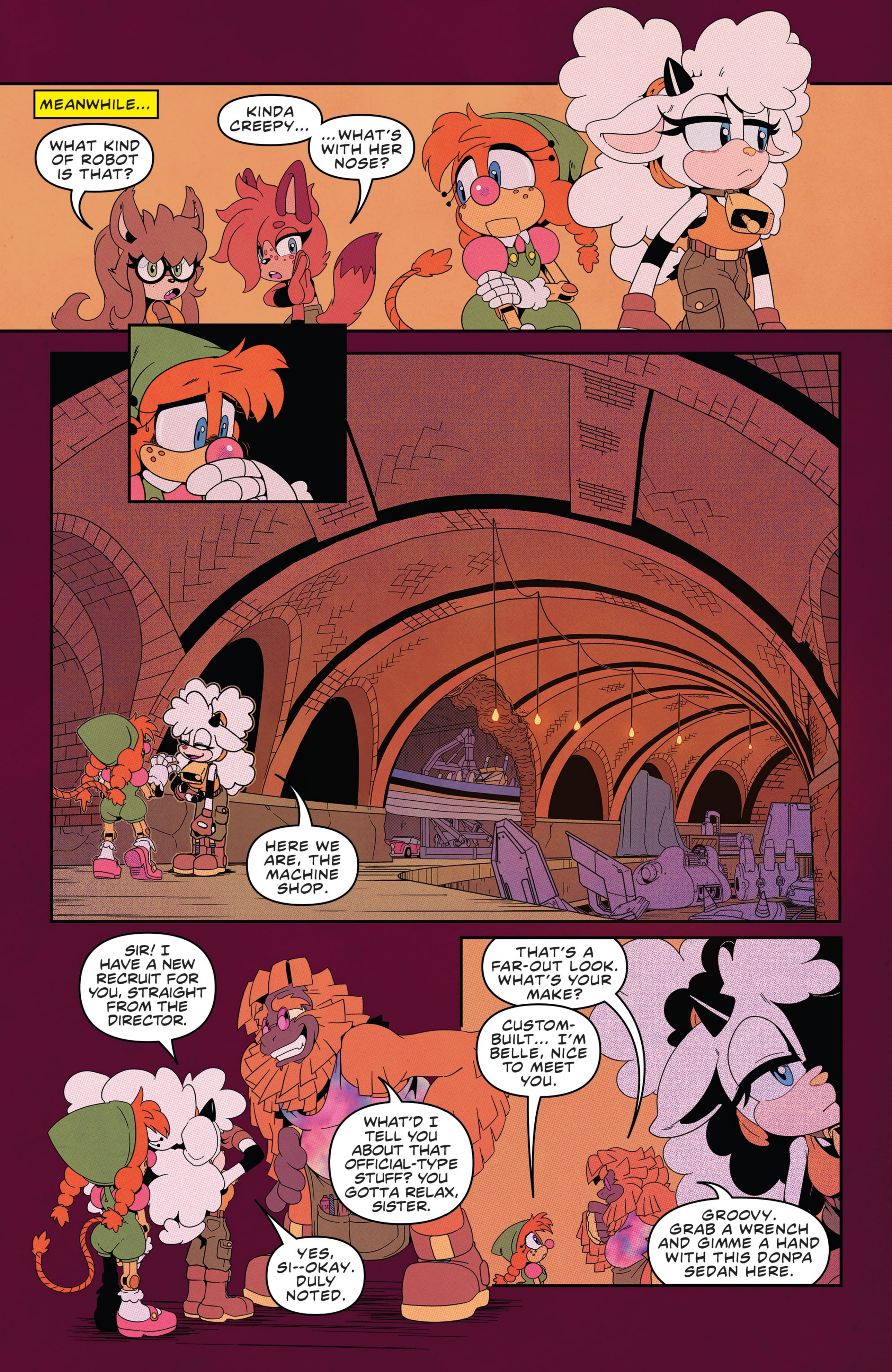

C'MON, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR!
YOU GUYS HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN BUSY TIDYING THIS PLACE UP.
INDEED-- AT FIRST IT SEEMED LIKE WE'D NEVER GET THROUGH IT!

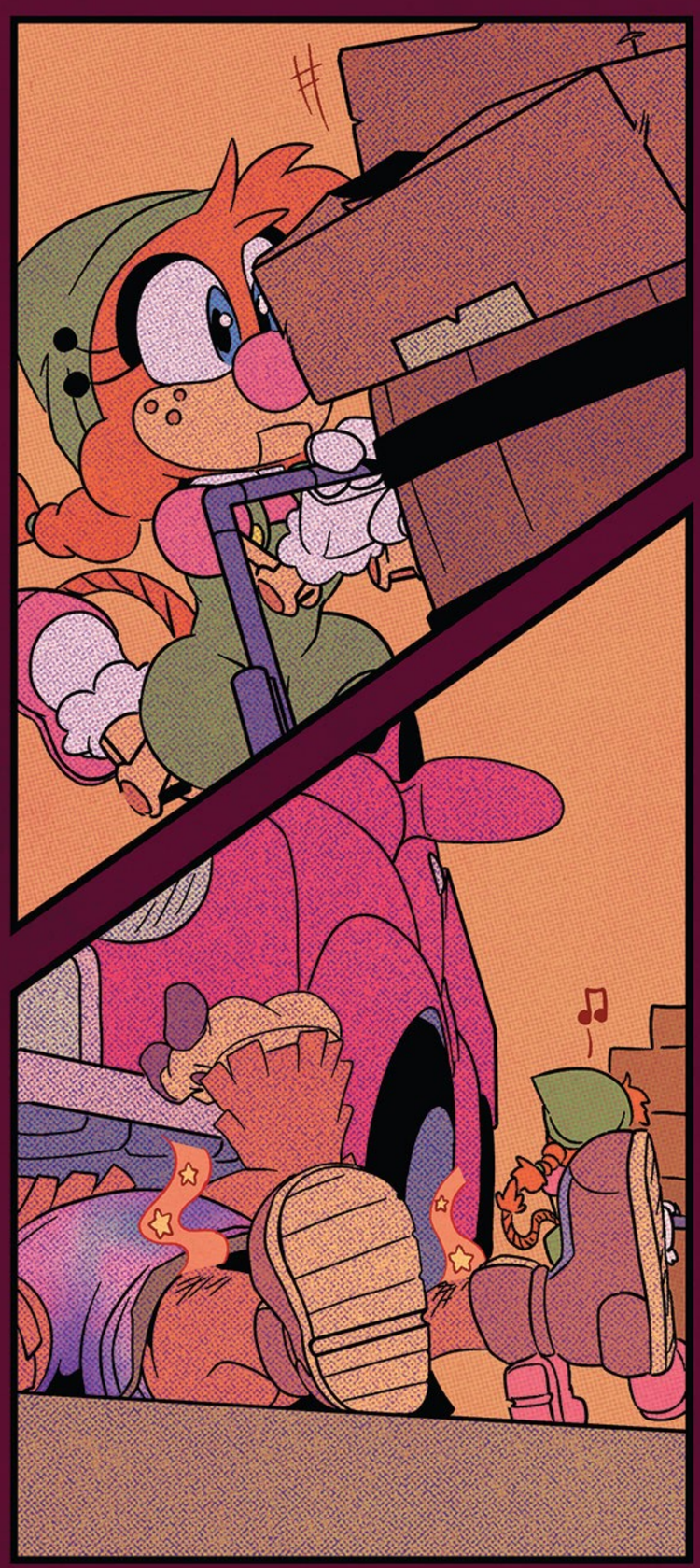

BUT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME...

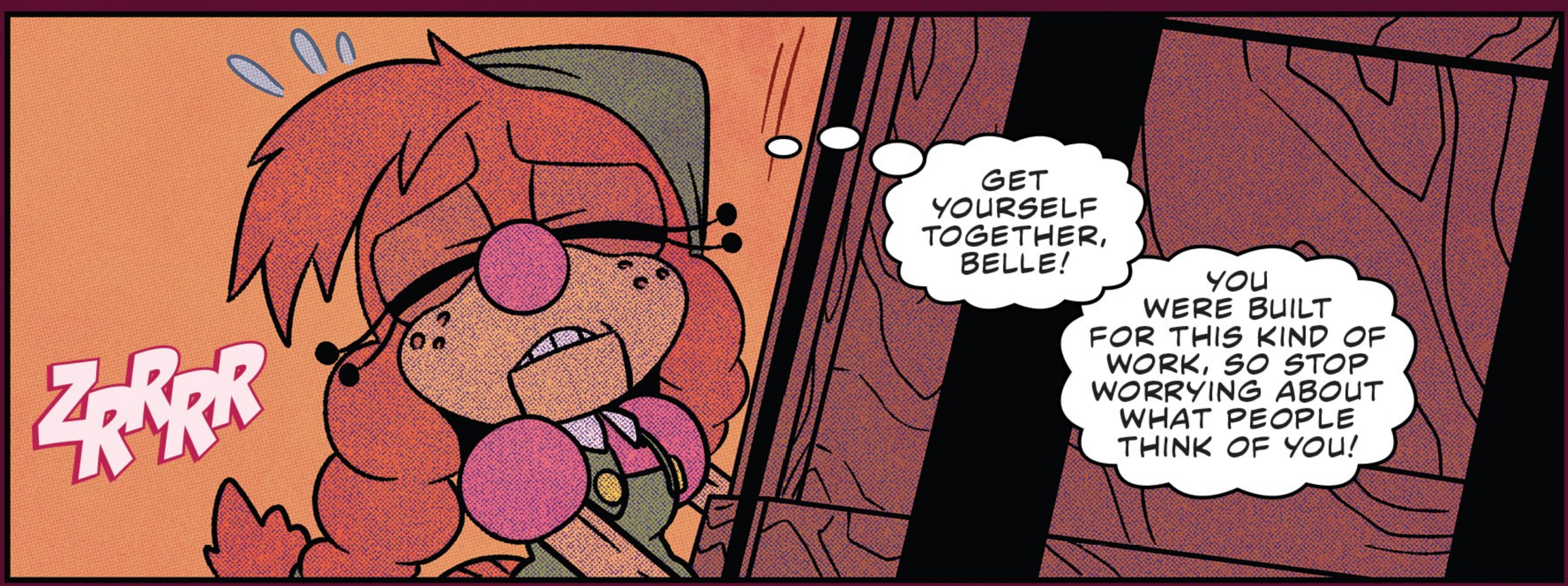
...AND HERE WE ARE!

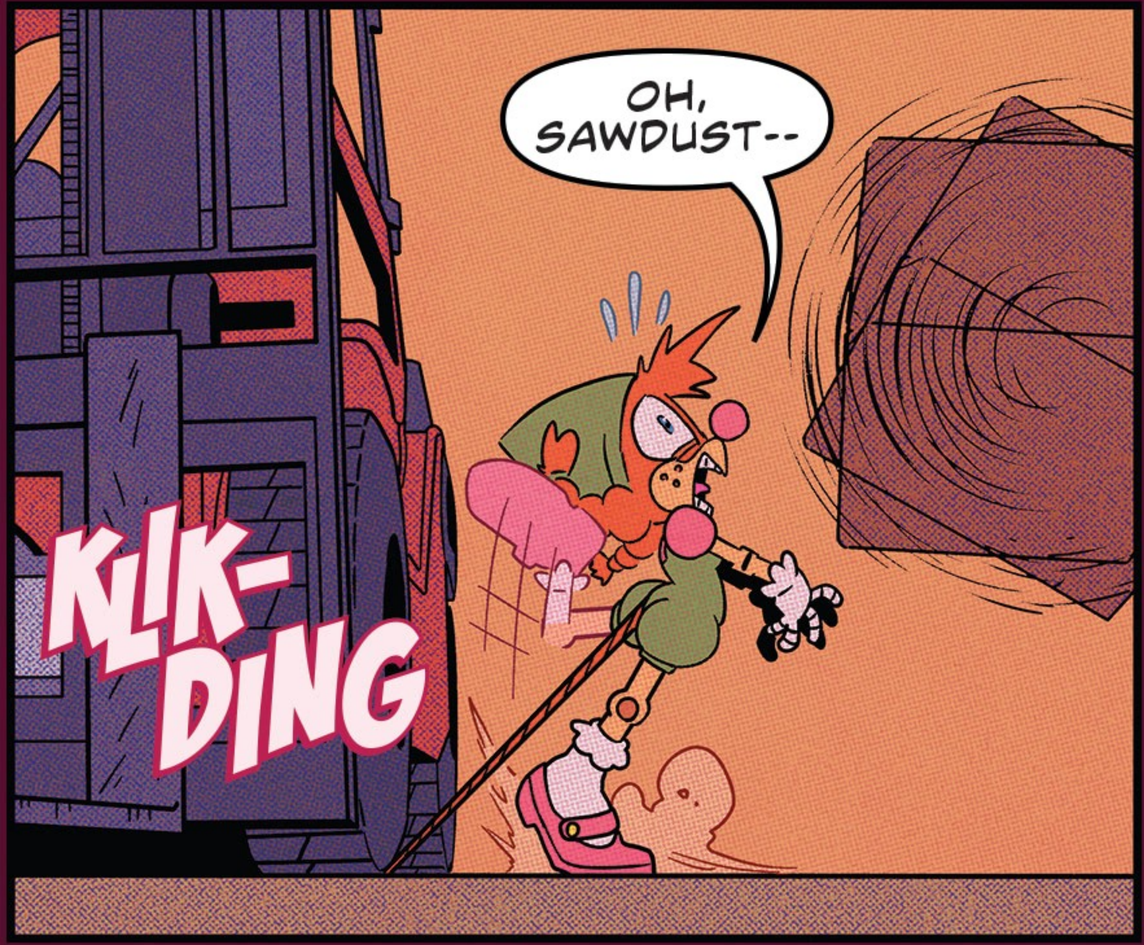
HERE YOU ARE. IF I HAVE TO LOOK AT ANOTHER EQUIPMENT REQUISITION FORM, I'LL SCREAM.

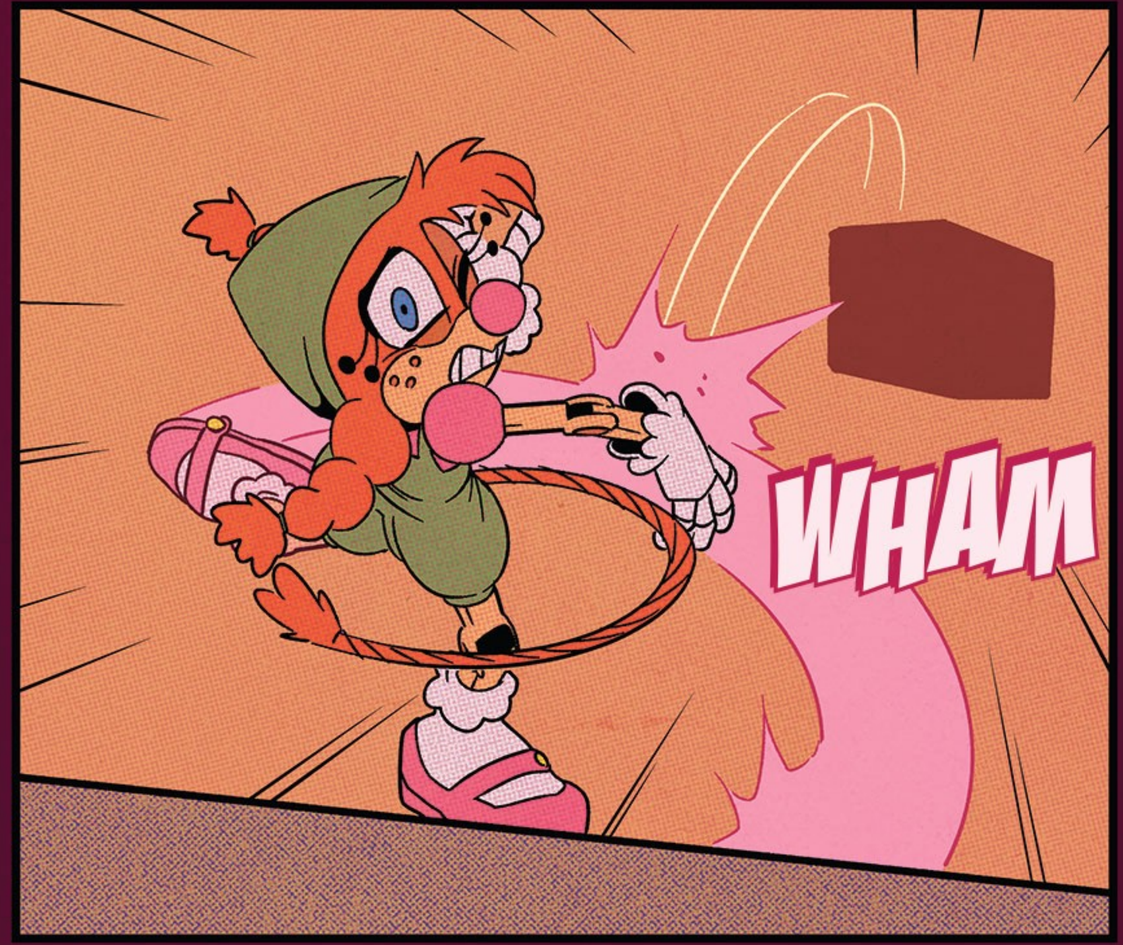

UHM, MS. JEWEL? SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE A LOOK AT THIS...


MEANWHILE...
WHAT KIND OF ROBOT IS THAT?
KINDA CREEPY...
...WHAT'S WITH HER NOSE?
HERE WE ARE, THE MACHINE SHOP.
SIR! I HAVE A NEW RECRUIT FOR YOU, STRAIGHT FROM THE DIRECTOR.
WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT THAT OFFICIAL-TYPE STUFF? YOU GOTTA RELAX, SISTER.
YES, SI--OKAY. DULY NOTED.
THAT'S A FAR-OUT LOOK. WHAT'S YOUR MAKE?
CUSTOM-BUILT... I'M BELLE, NICE TO MEET YOU.
GROOVY. GRAB A WRENCH AND GIMME A HAND WITH THIS DONPA SEDAN HERE.



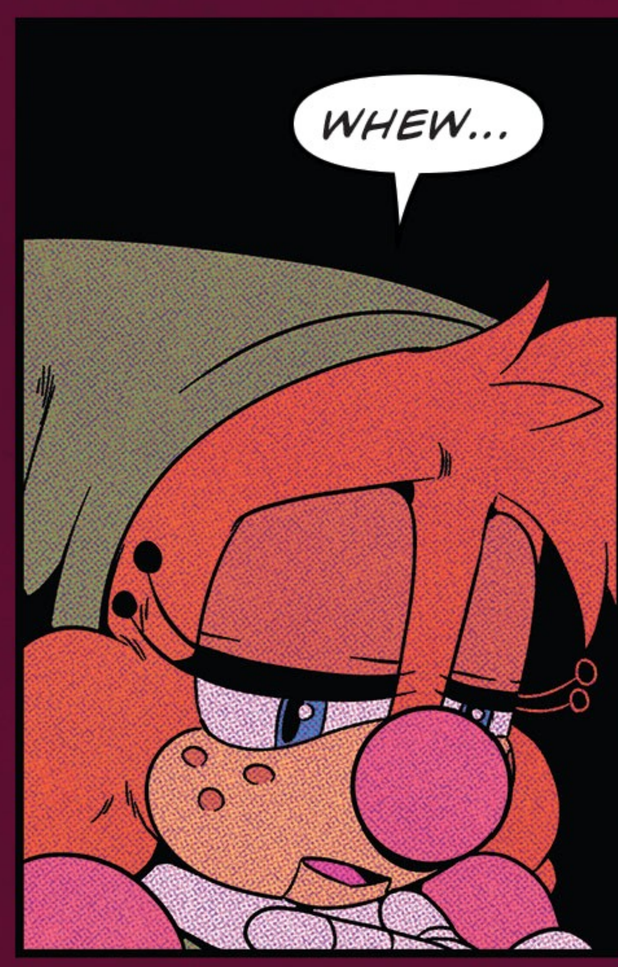

ZRRRRR
GET YOURSELF TOGETHER, BELLE!
YOU WERE BUILT FOR THIS KIND OF WORK, SO STOP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF YOU!


OH, SAWDUST--
KLIK-DING


WHAM

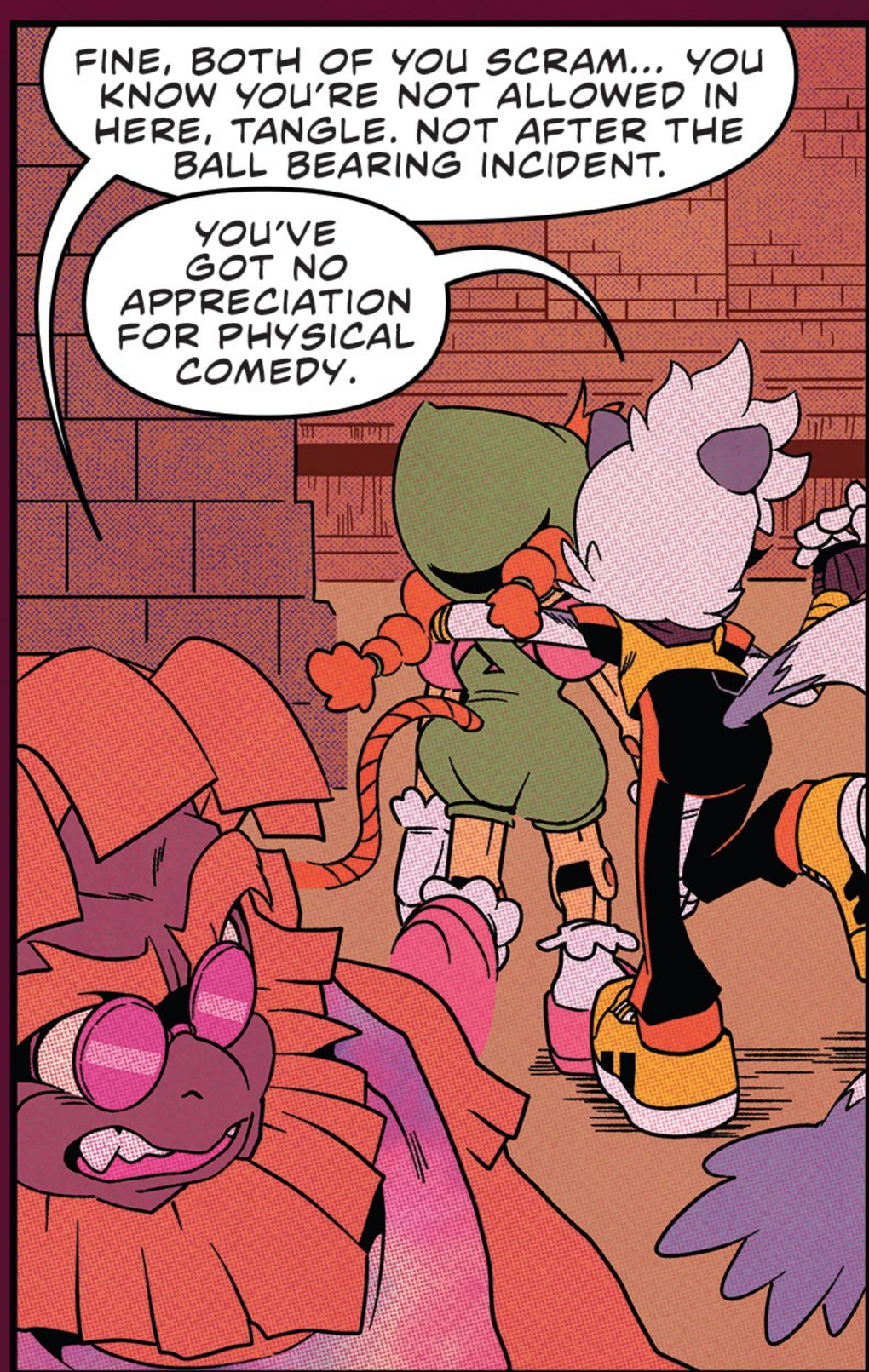
CRASH
SCREEEEEE
MOVE! EVERYBODY OUT!
GOTTA HELP STOP--
DON'T WORRY, GUYS, I GOT THIS! NO "BOATS" ABOUT IT.
CINCH

LITTLE HELP? THIS IS KINDA HEAVY. REALLY HEAVY. PLEASE HURRY.

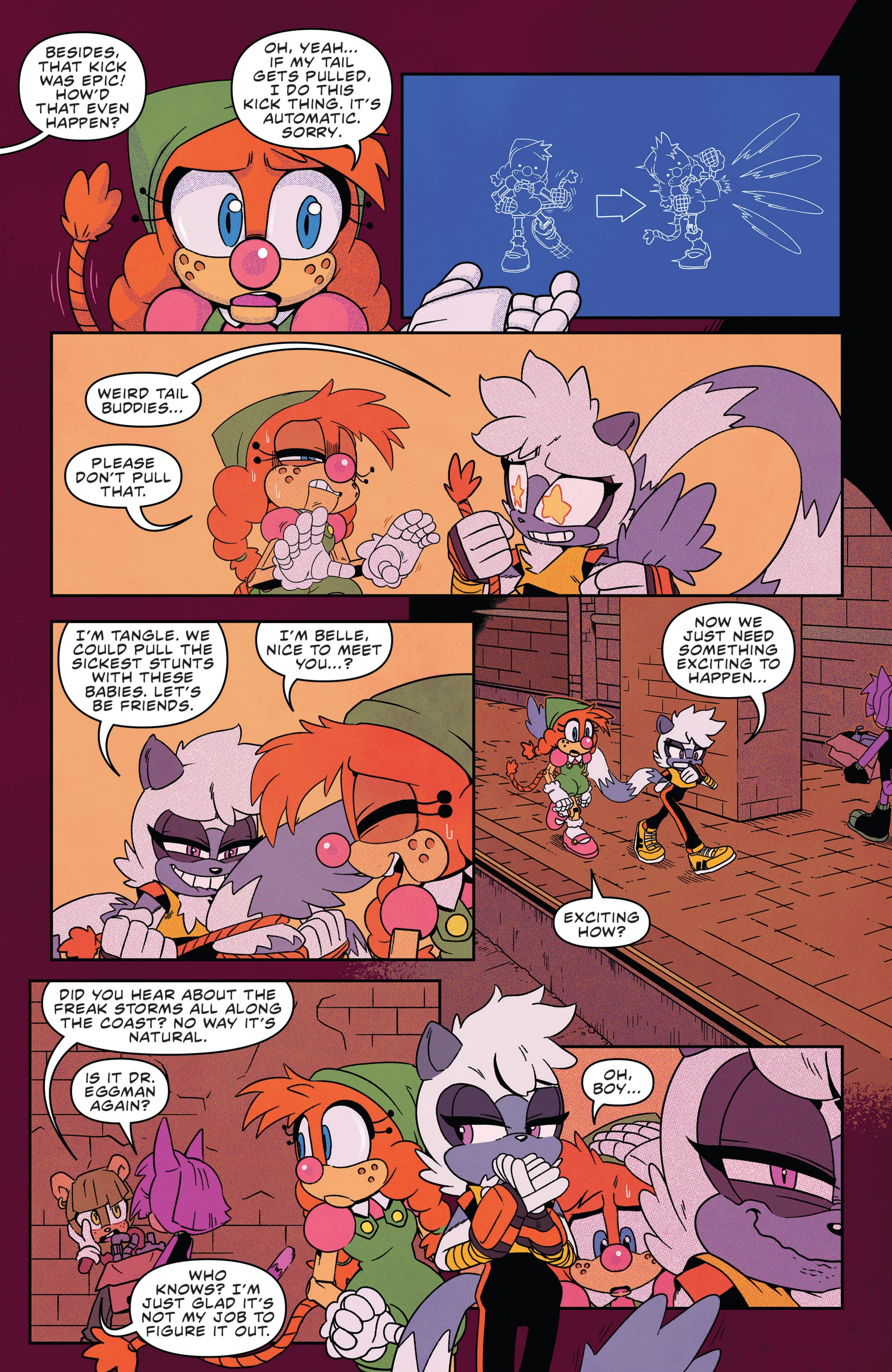

WHEW...

YOU!
YOU'RE A LIABILITY TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS, AND I CAN'T HAVE THOSE KINDA VIBES IN MY SHOP, SO MAKE TRACKS BEFORE I--

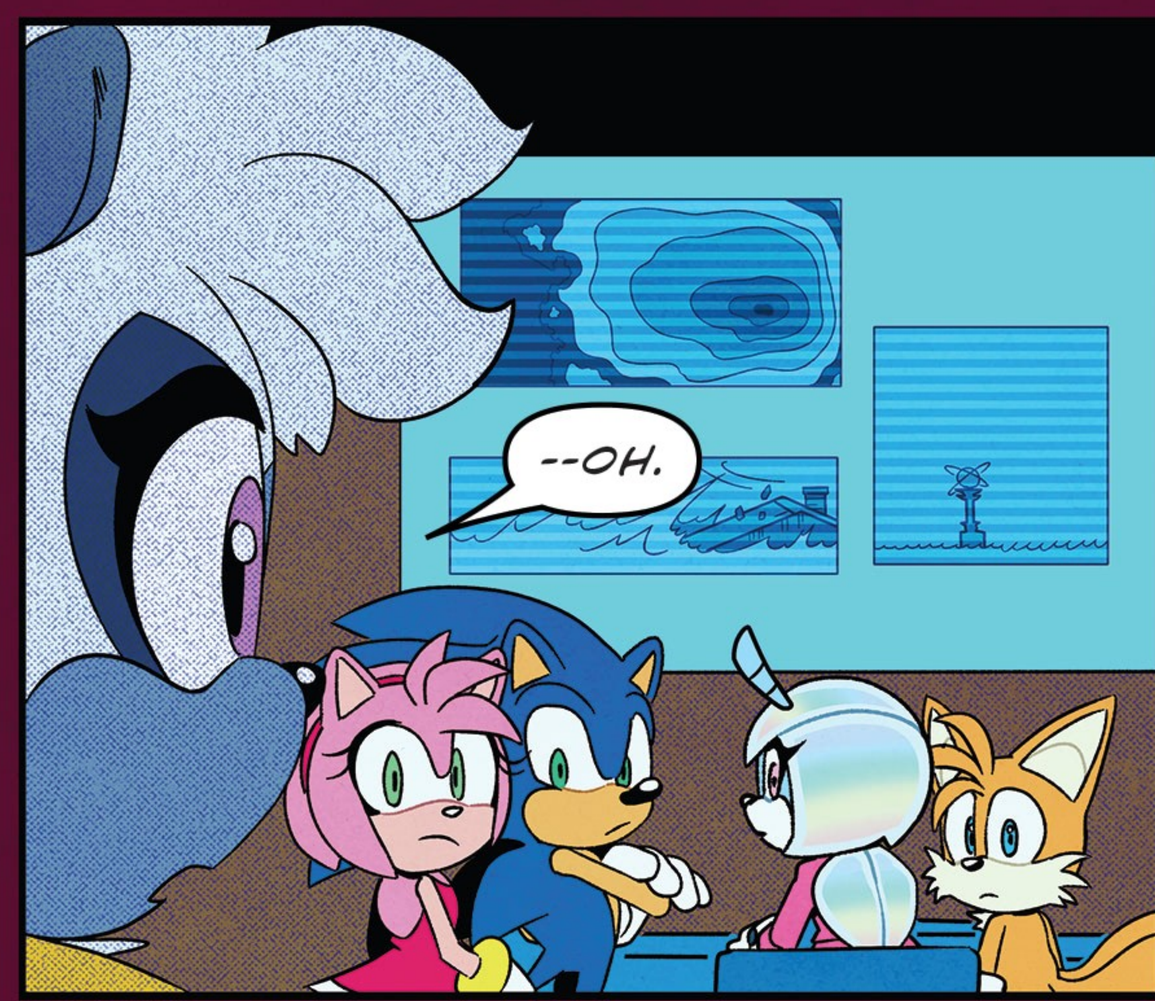
I'M SO, SO SORRY, I SWEAR I CAN'T--
--OH?
EASY, CHIEF! I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.


FINE, BOTH OF YOU SCRAM... YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED IN HERE, TANGLE. NOT AFTER THE BALL BEARING INCIDENT.
YOU'VE GOT NO APPRECIATION FOR PHYSICAL COMEDY.

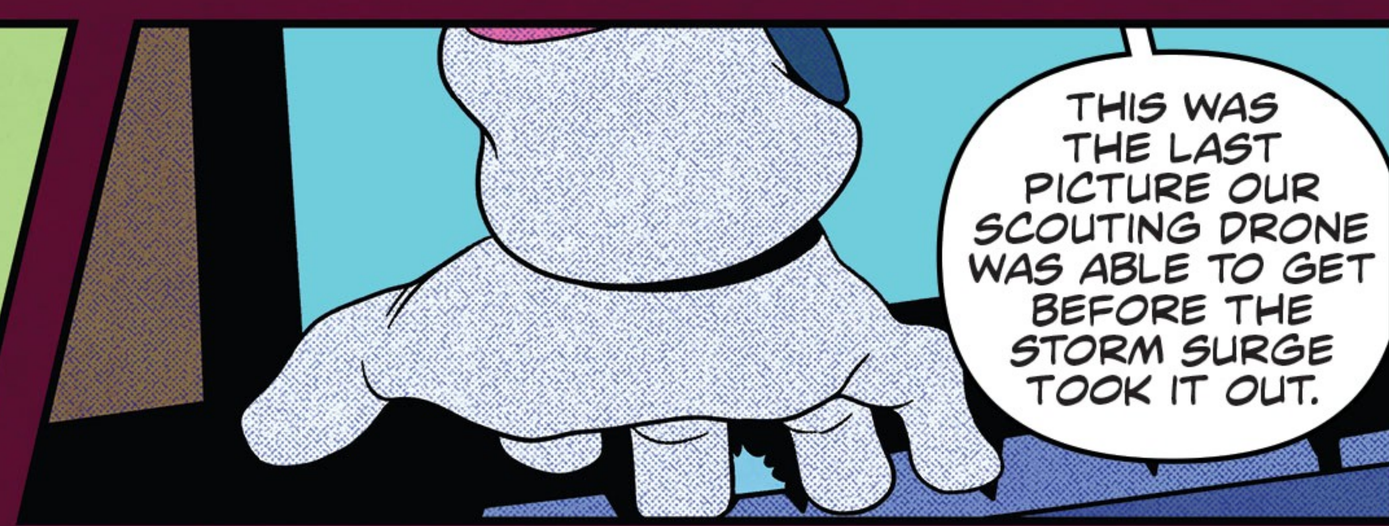
YOU CAUSE ONE LITTLE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT AND YOU'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT. THEY SHOULD CALL IT THE RULES-TORATION, HUH?
OUFF, THIS IS A DISASTER...
NAAAH... YOU'RE NEW, RIGHT? FIRST DAYS ARE ALWAYS TOUGH.

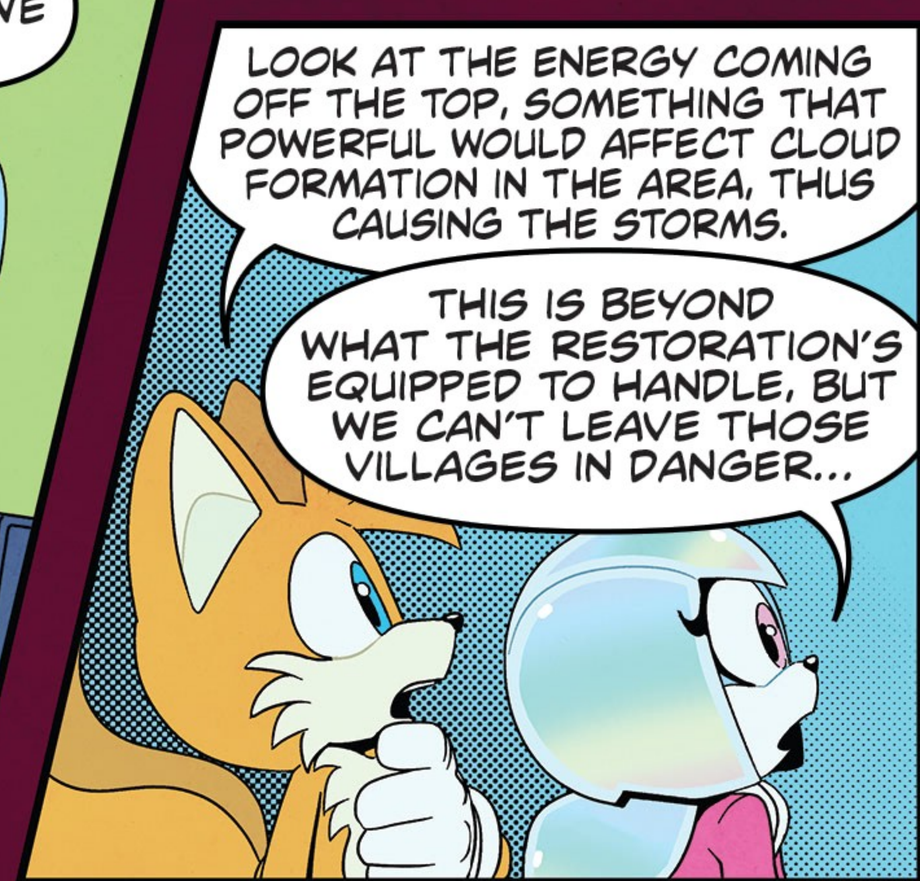

BESIDES, THAT KICK WAS EPIC! HOW'D THAT EVEN HAPPEN?
OH, YEAH... IF MY TAIL GETS PULLED, I DO THIS KICK THING. IT'S AUTOMATIC. SORRY.
WEIRD TAIL BUDDIES...
PLEASE DON'T PULL THAT.
I'M TANGLE. WE COULD PULL THE SICKEST STUNTS WITH THESE BABIES. LET'S BE FRIENDS.
I'M BELLE, NICE TO MEET YOU...?
NOW WE JUST NEED SOMETHING EXCITING TO HAPPEN...
EXCITING HOW?
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FREAK STORMS ALL ALONG THE COAST? NO WAY IT'S NATURAL.
IS IT DR. EGGMAN AGAIN?
OH, BOY...
WHO KNOWS? I'M JUST GLAD IT'S NOT MY JOB TO FIGURE IT OUT.

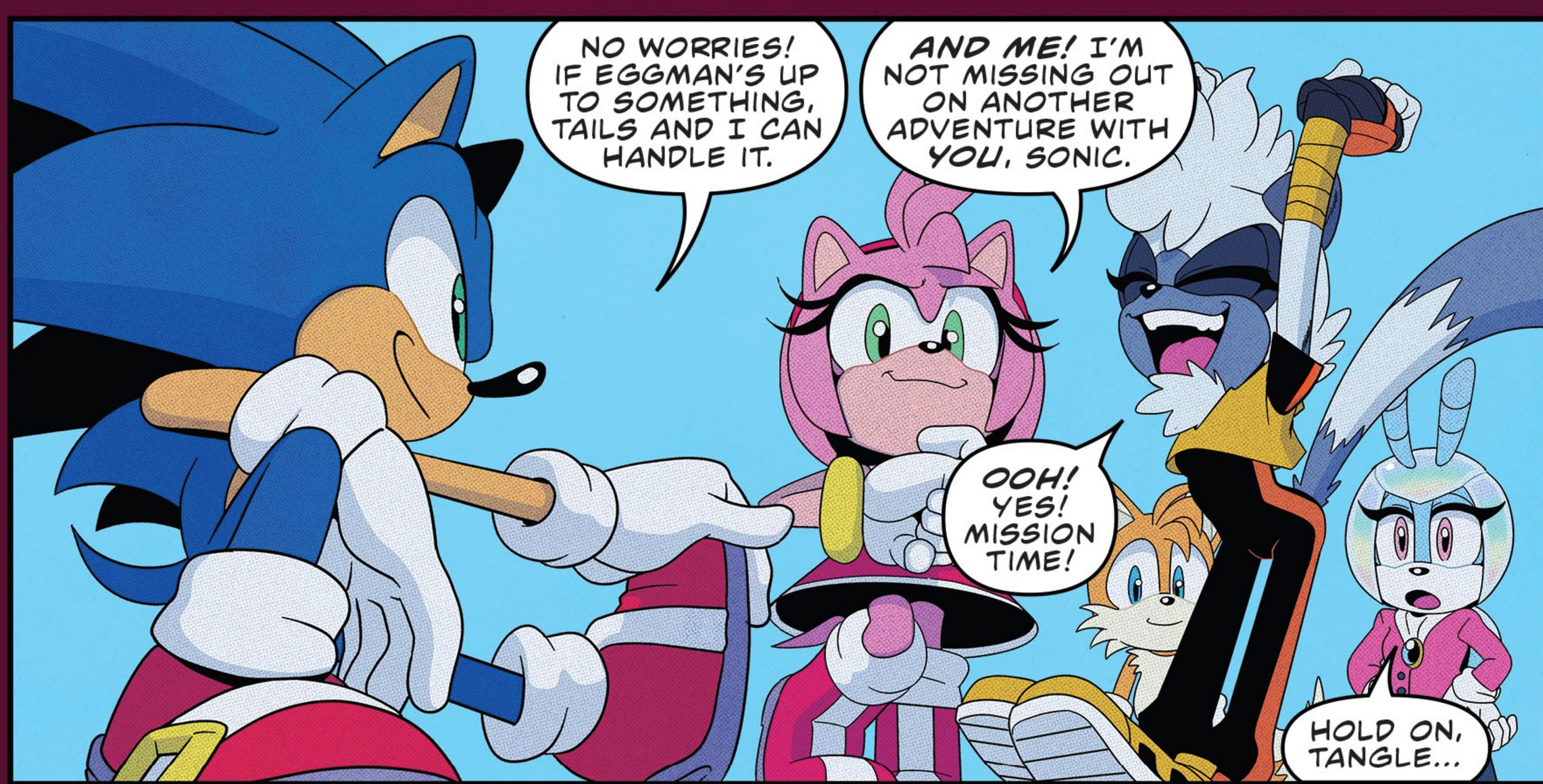
JEWEL! WE GOT TROUBLE! THERE'S A--

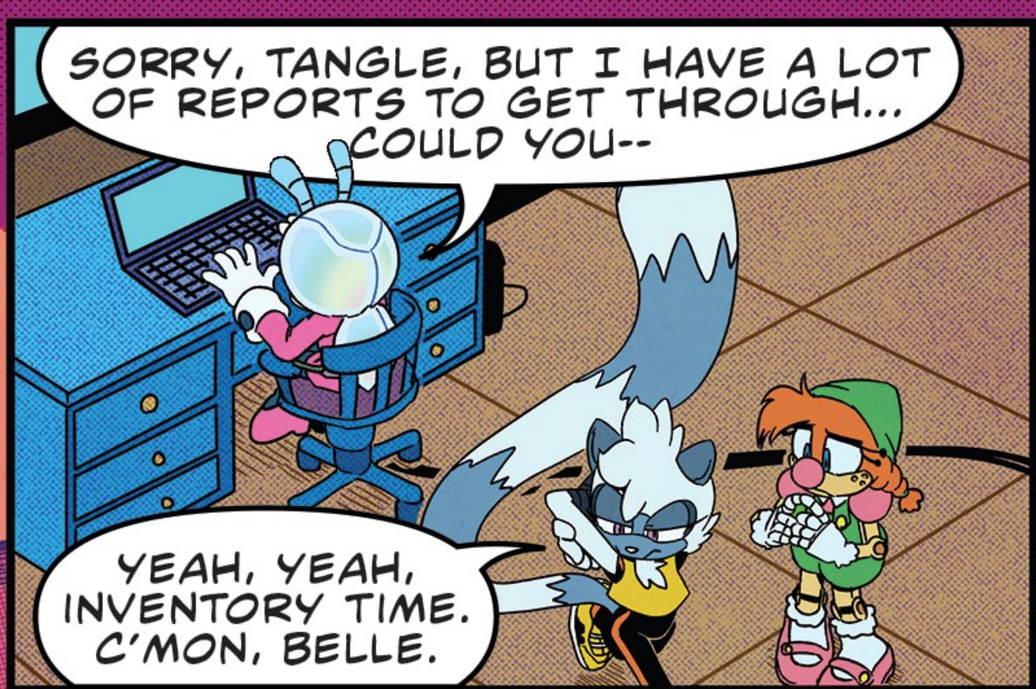

--OH.

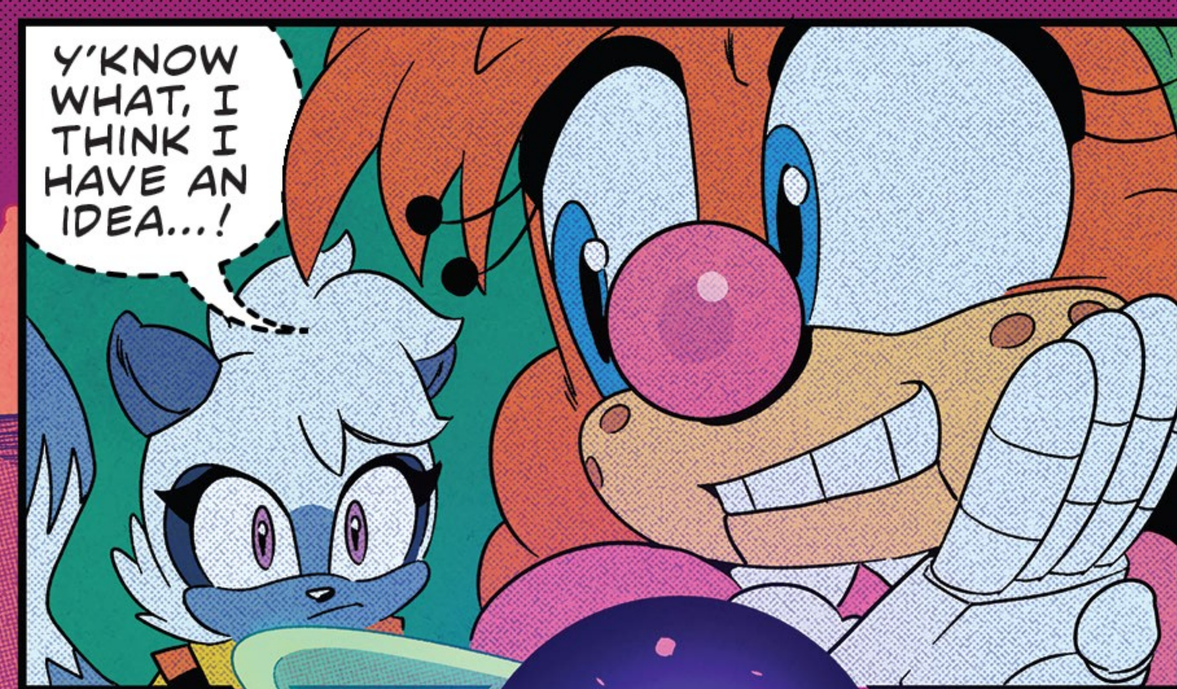
YO, TANGLE! LONG TIME NO SEE. BELLE, SHORT TIME NO SEE!
HEY, SONIC. SO WHAT'S--
AH, HERE WE GO!


THIS WAS THE LAST PICTURE OUR SCOUTING DRONE WAS ABLE TO GET BEFORE THE STORM SURGE TOOK IT OUT.

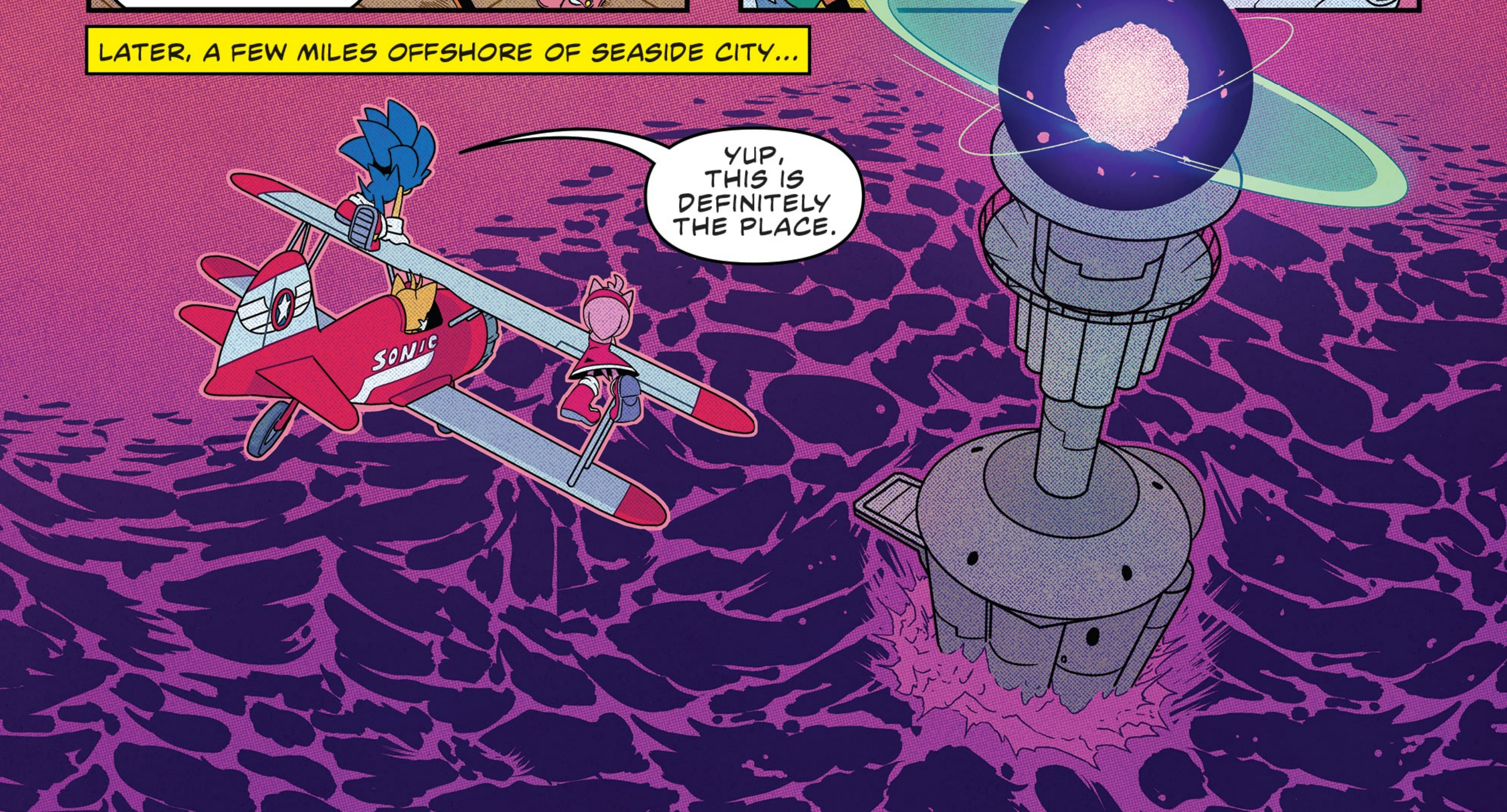

LOOK AT THE ENERGY COMING OFF THE TOP, SOMETHING THAT POWERFUL WOULD AFFECT CLOUD FORMATION IN THE AREA, THUS CAUSING THE STORMS.
THIS IS BEYOND WHAT THE RESTORATION'S EQUIPPED TO HANDLE, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE THOSE VILLAGES IN DANGER...

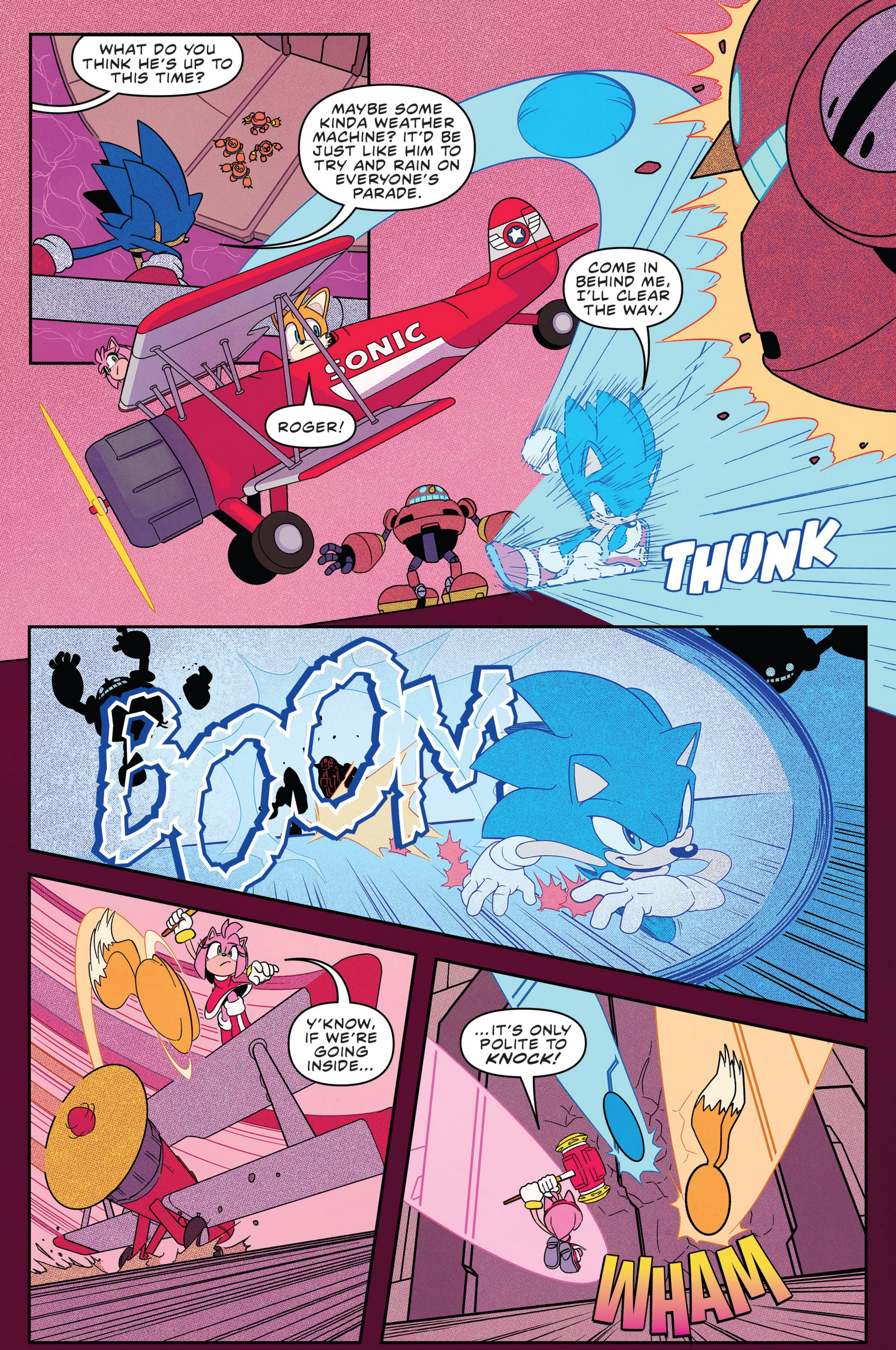

NO WORRIES! IF EGGMAN'S UP TO SOMETHING, TAILS AND I CAN HANDLE IT.
AND ME! I'M NOT MISSING OUT ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE WITH YOU, SONIC.
OOH! YES! MISSION TIME!
HOLD ON, TANGLE...

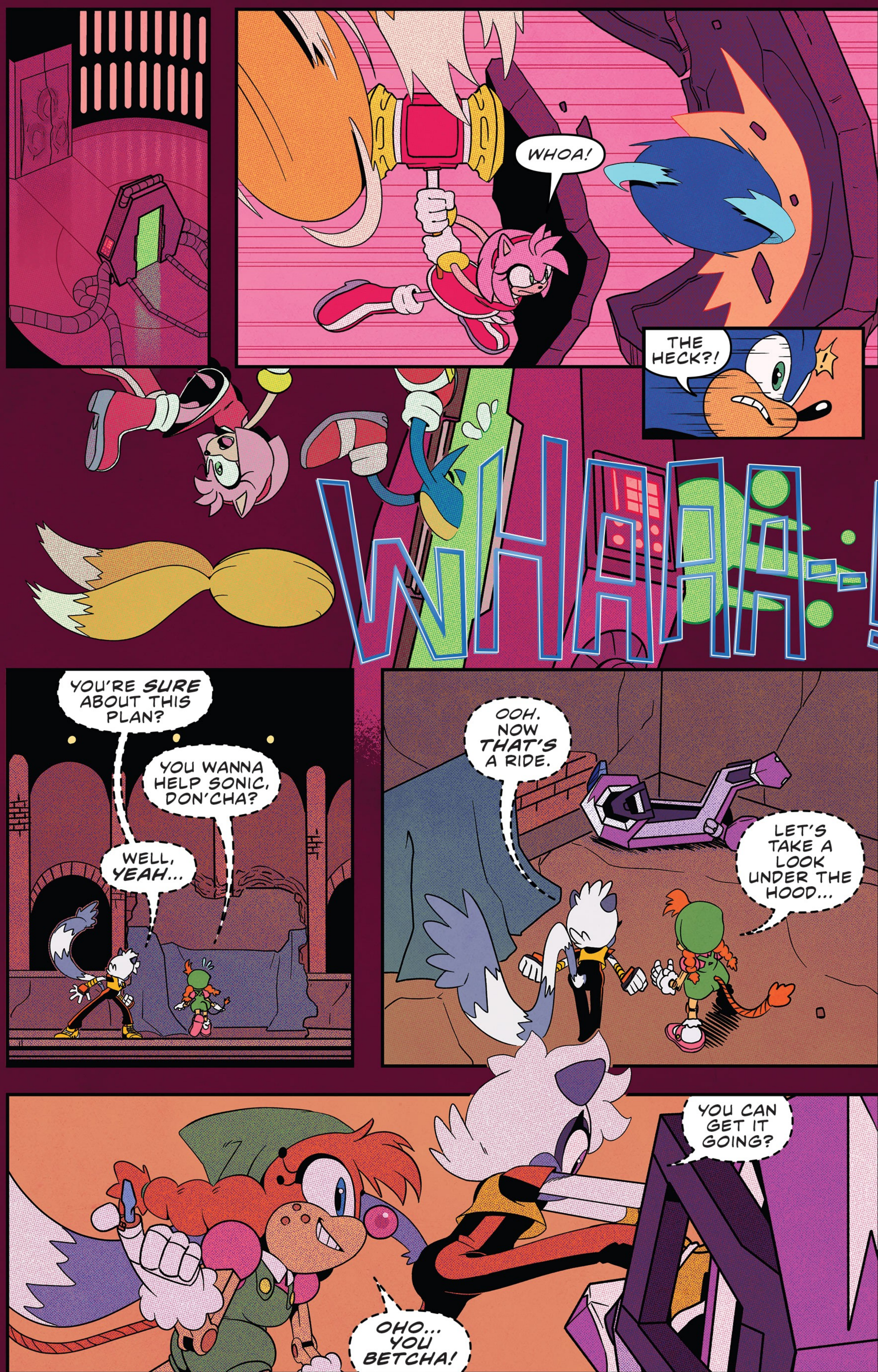


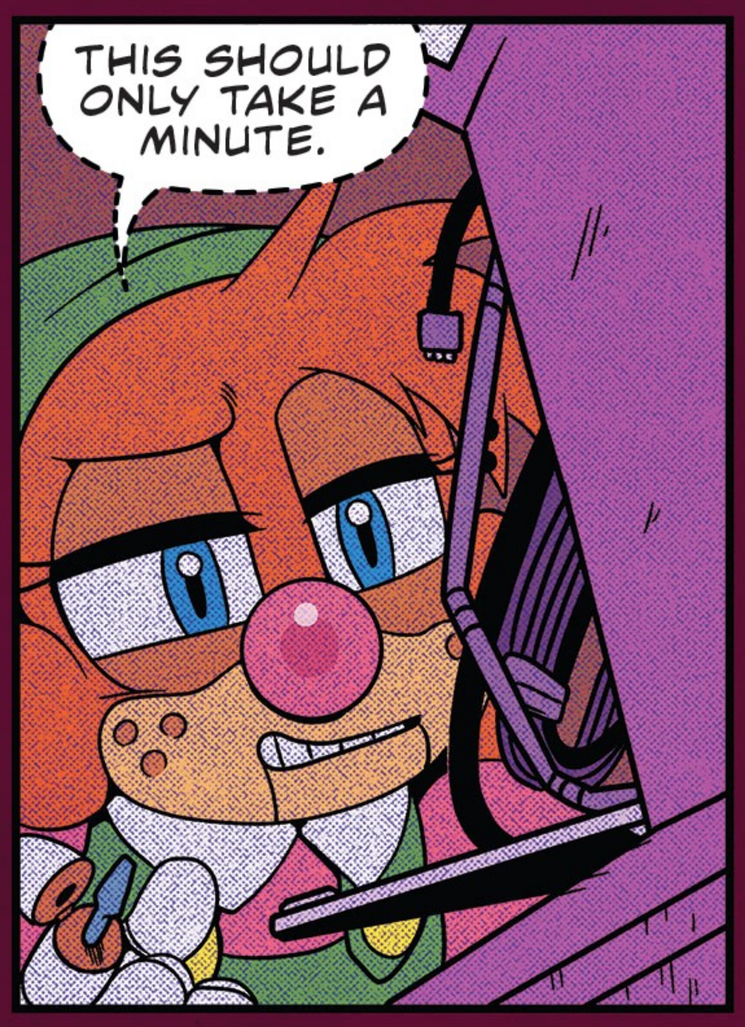


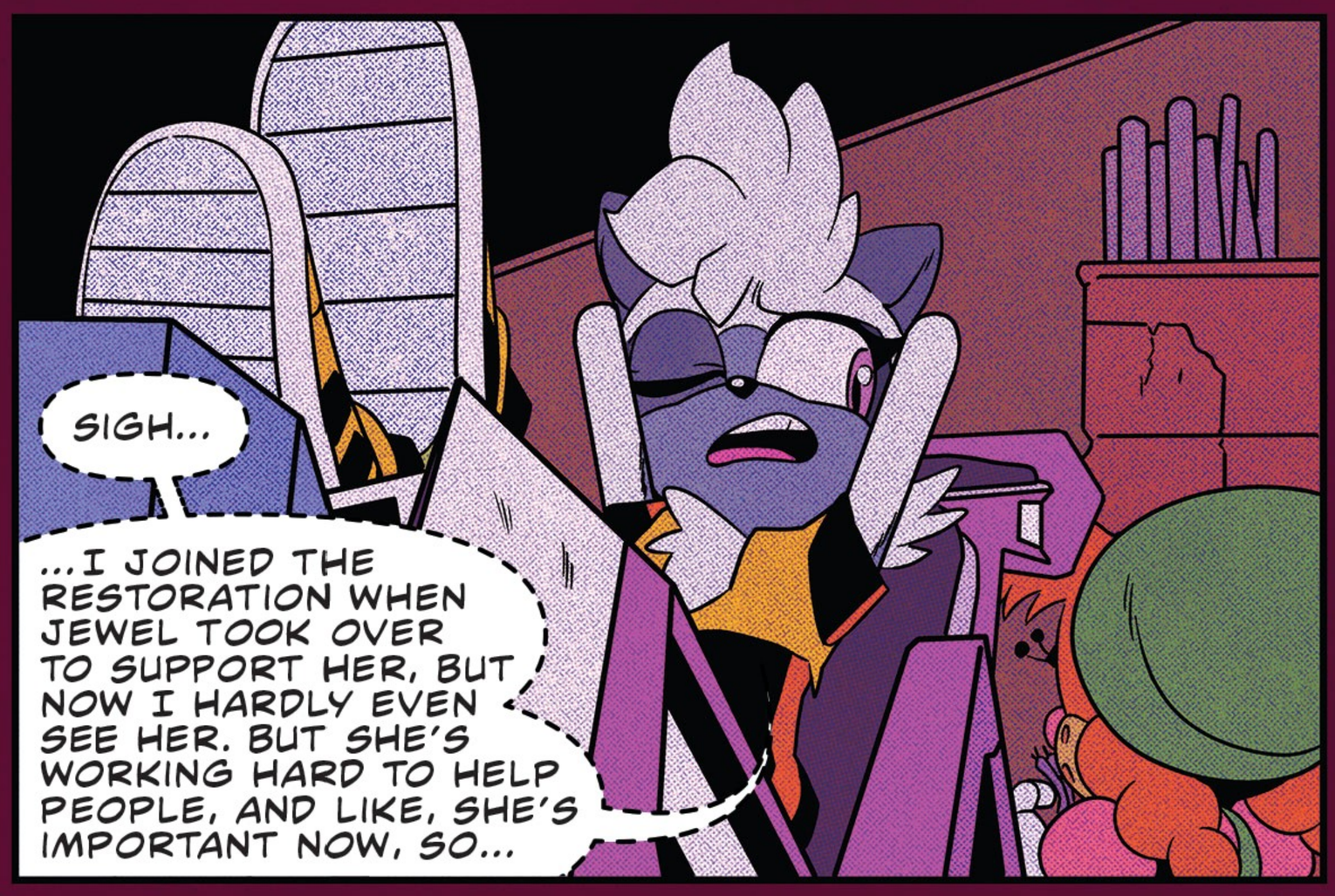
LATER, A FEW MILES OFFSHORE OF SEASIDE CITY...

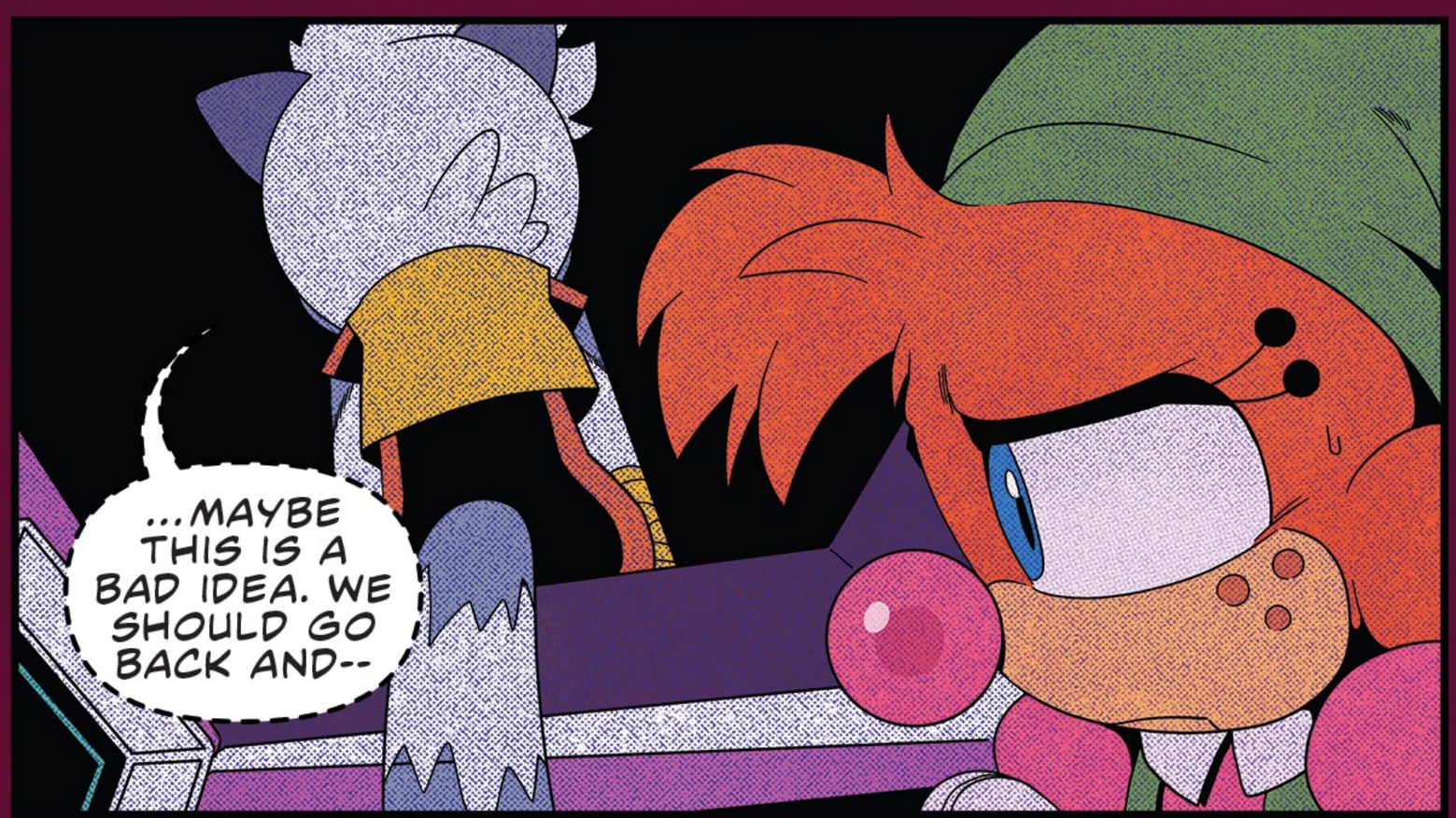


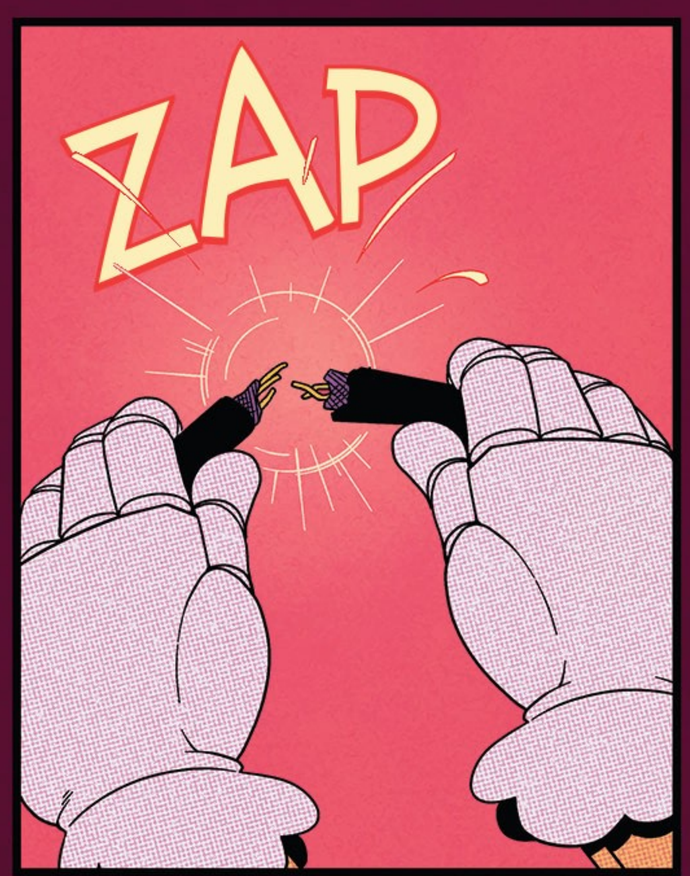

WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO THIS TIME?
MAYBE SOME KINDA WEATHER MACHINE? IT'D BE JUST LIKE HIM TO TRY AND RAIN ON EVERYONE'S PARADE.
SONIC
ROGER!
COME IN BEHIND ME, I'LL CLEAR THE WAY.
THUNK
BOOM
Y'KNOW, IF WE'RE GOING INSIDE...
...IT'S ONLY POLITE TO KNOCK!
WHAM


WHOA!
THE HECK?!
WHAA-!
YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS PLAN?
YOU WANNA HELP SONIC, DON'CHA?
WELL, YEAH...
OOH. NOW THAT'S A RIDE.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD...
YOU CAN GET IT GOING?
OHO... YOU BETCHA!


THIS SHOULD ONLY TAKE A MINUTE.

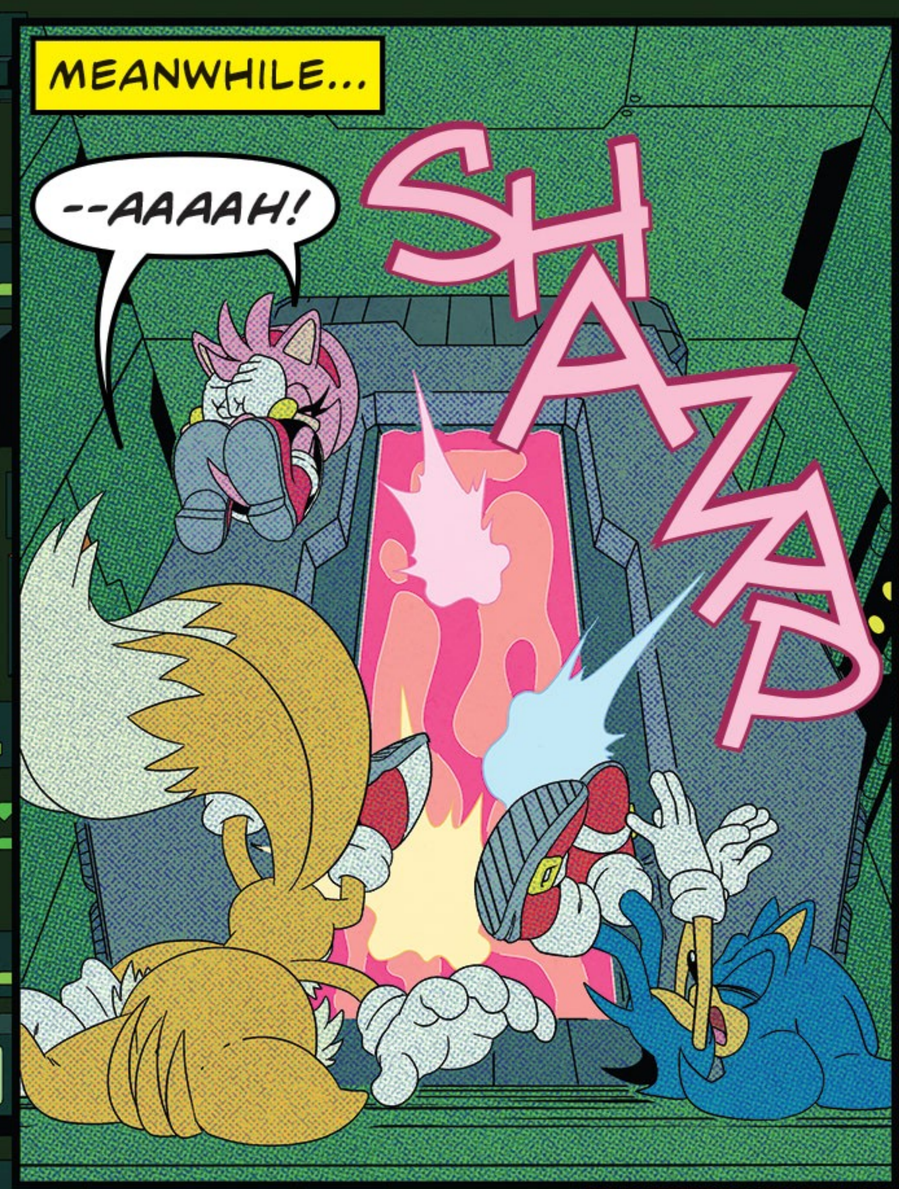

SIGH...
...I JOINED THE RESTORATION WHEN JEWEL TOOK OVER TO SUPPORT HER, BUT NOW I HARDLY EVEN SEE HER. BUT SHE'S WORKING HARD TO HELP PEOPLE, AND LIKE, SHE'S IMPORTANT NOW, SO...

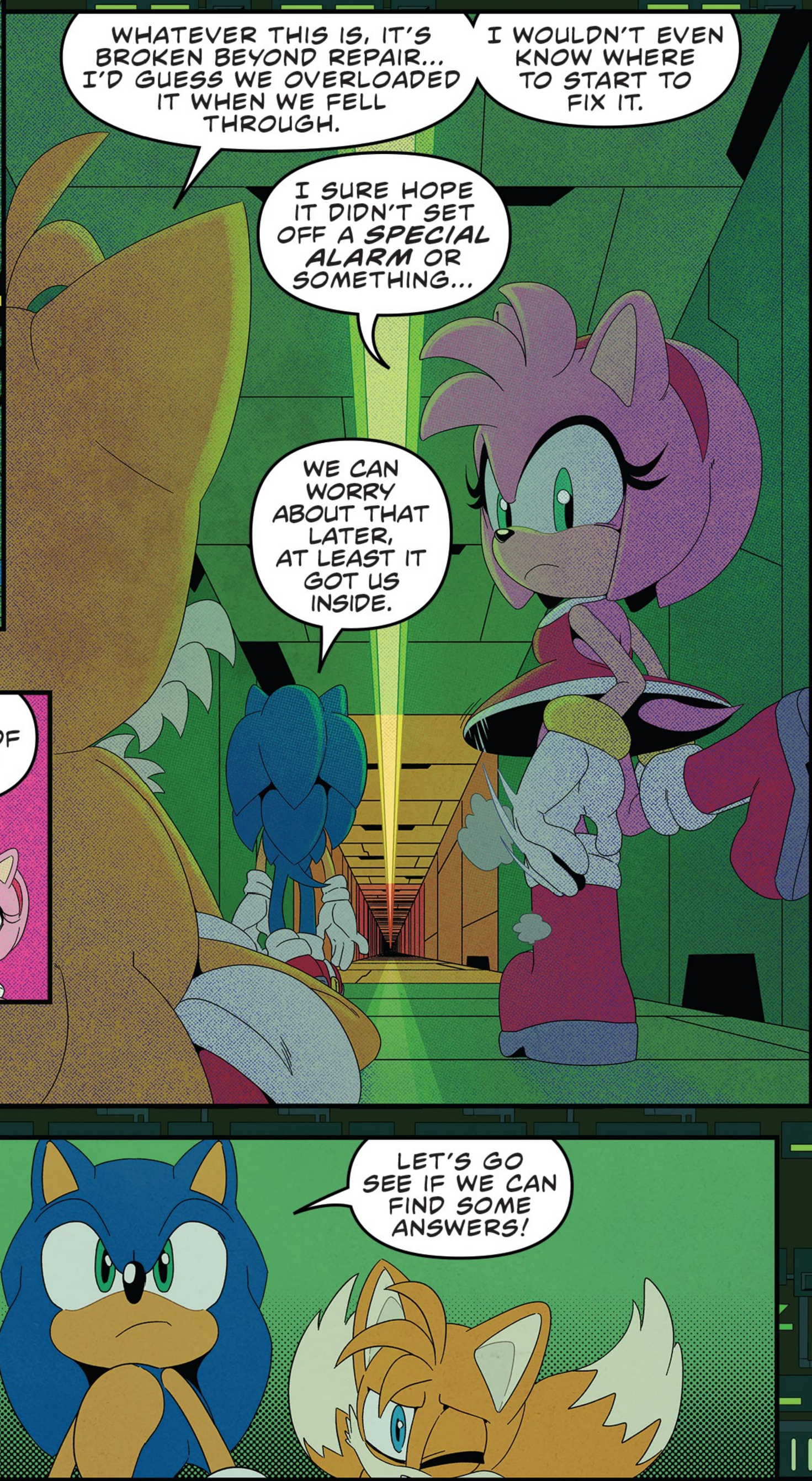

...MAYBE THIS IS A BAD IDEA. WE SHOULD GO BACK AND--


ZAP

WHOA-HO-HO!
I GUESS WE'RE DOING THIS!
LET'S GO!
HUMMM
TANGLE!
WHAT IN THE...

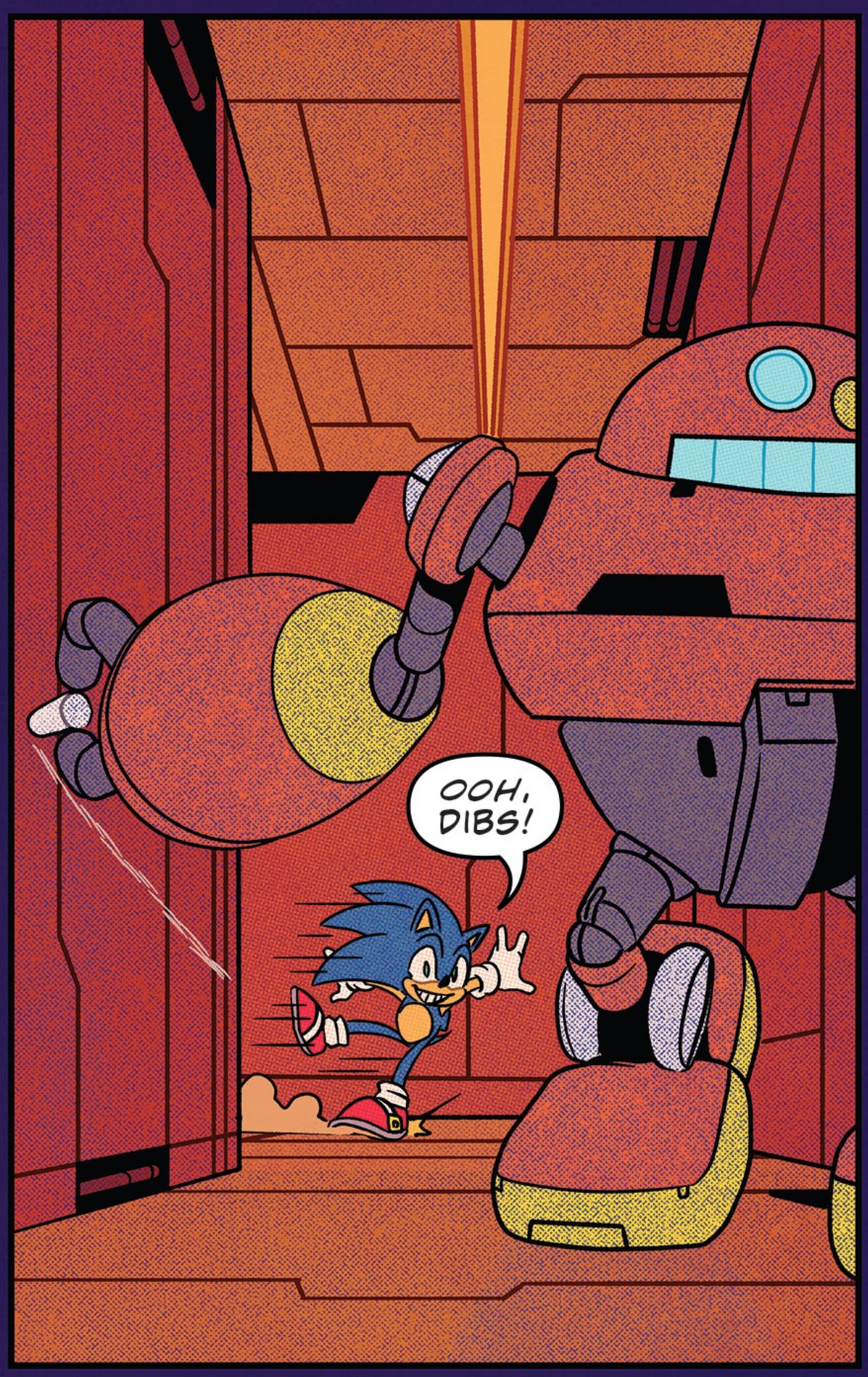
EXIT TO SURFACE
FAIR WARNING, I'VE NEVER DRIVEN ONE OF THESE THINGS BEFORE.
TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

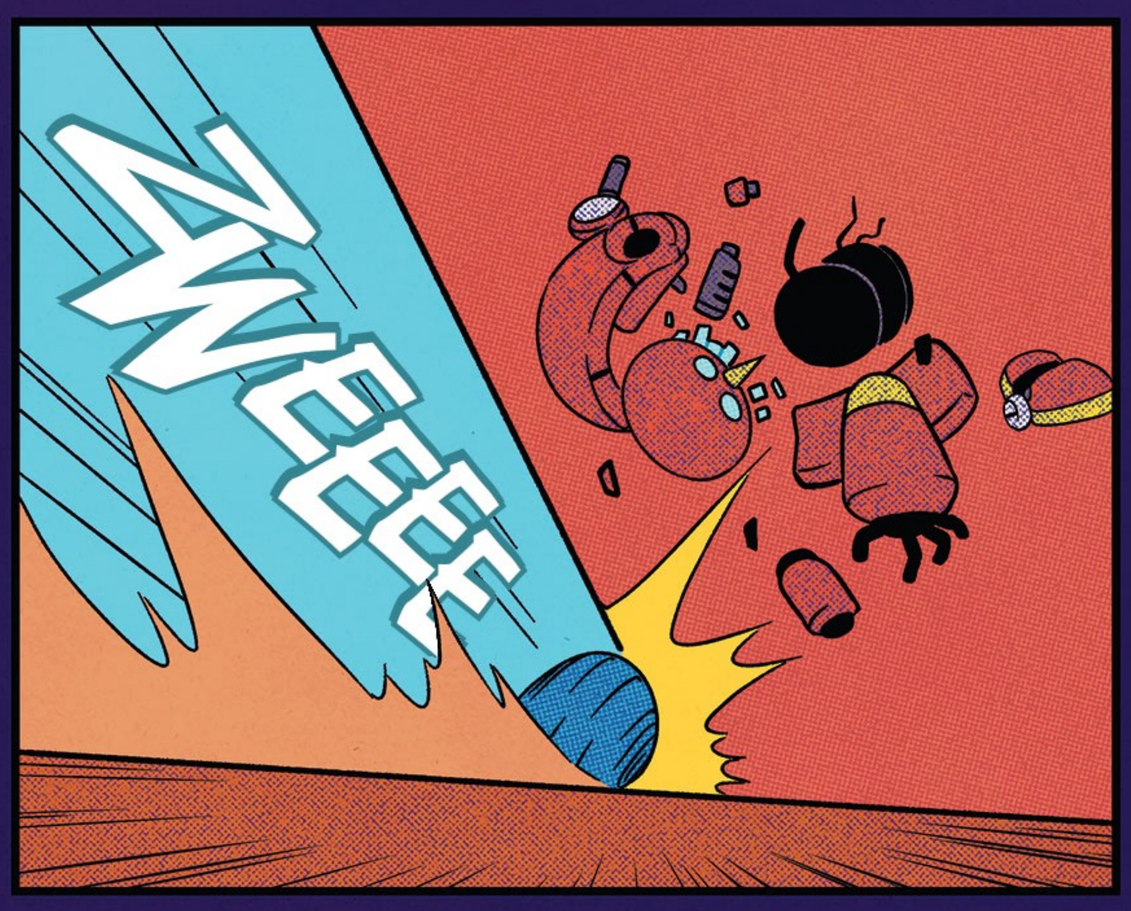

MEANWHILE...
--AAAAH!
SHAZAP

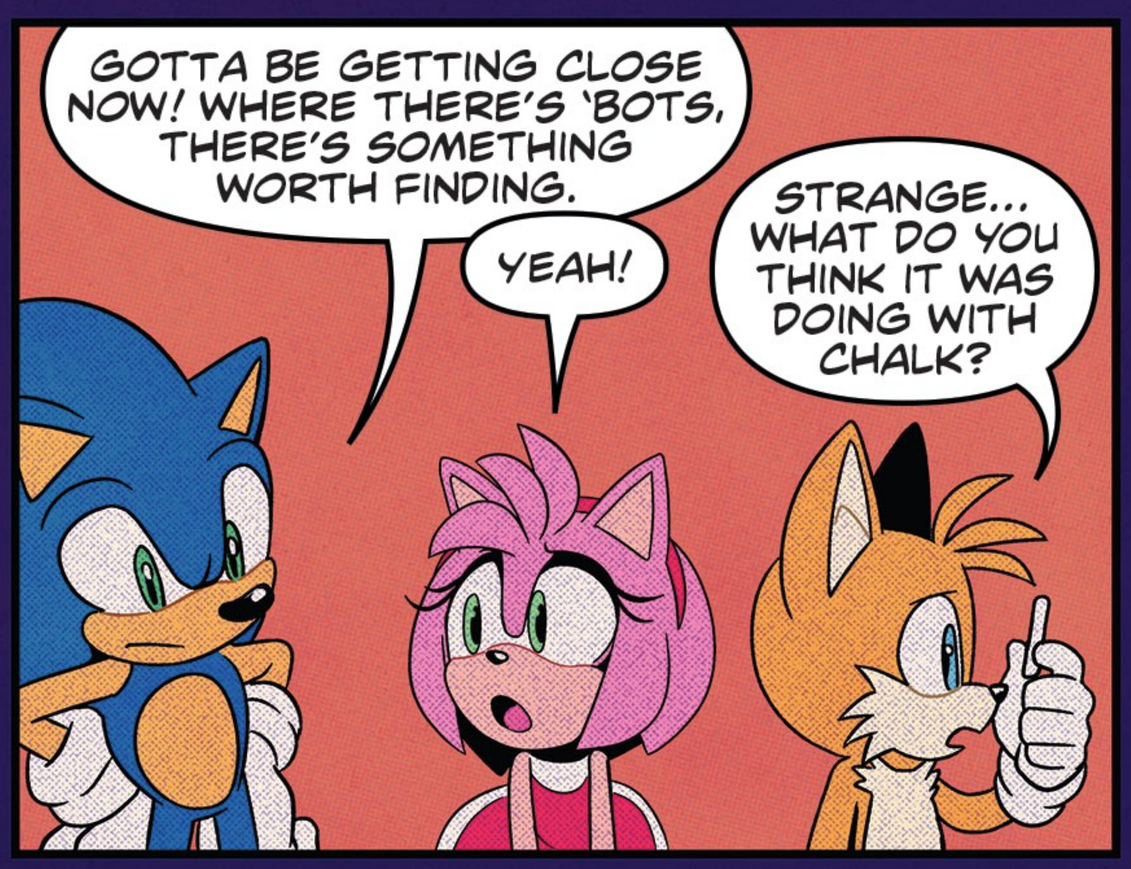

WHATEVER THIS IS, IT'S BROKEN BEYOND REPAIR... I'D GUESS WE OVERLOADED IT WHEN WE FELL THROUGH.
I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START TO FIX IT.
I SURE HOPE IT DIDN'T SET OFF A SPECIAL ALARM OR SOMETHING...
WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, AT LEAST IT GOT US INSIDE.

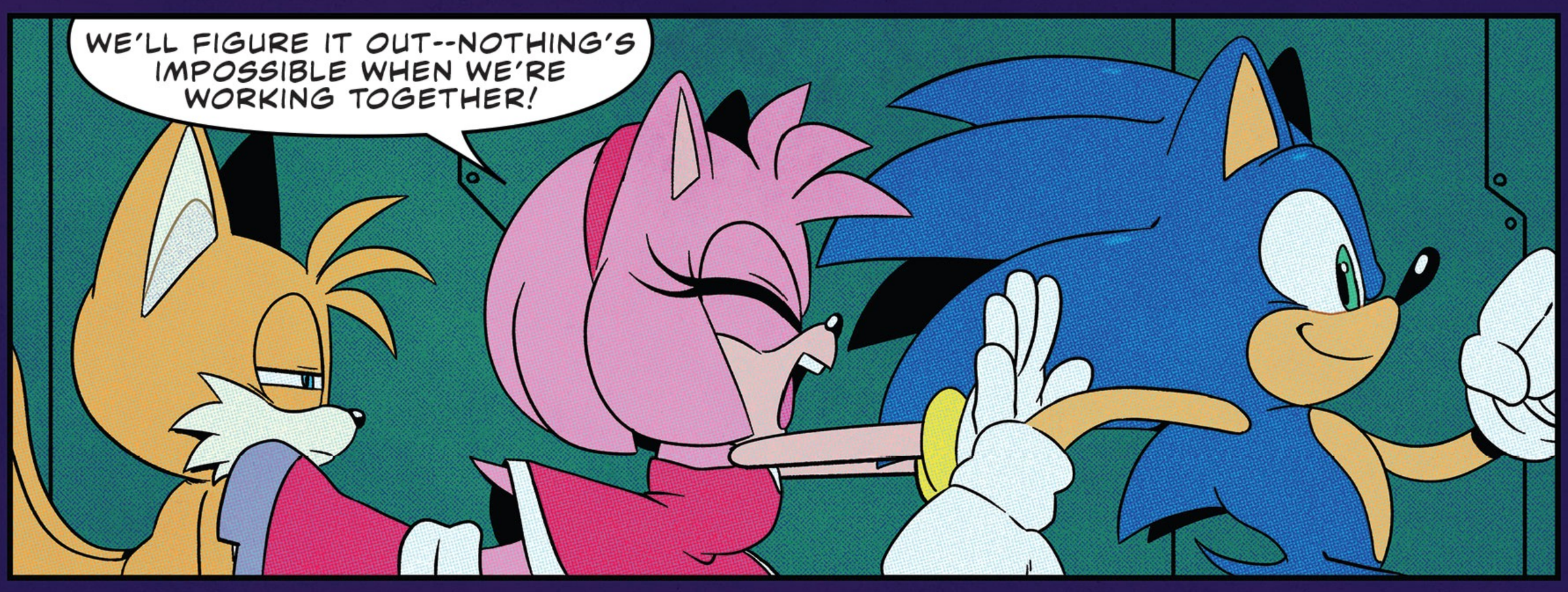
EZZTRAK
WHAT THE HECK KIND OF DOOR WAS THAT?!

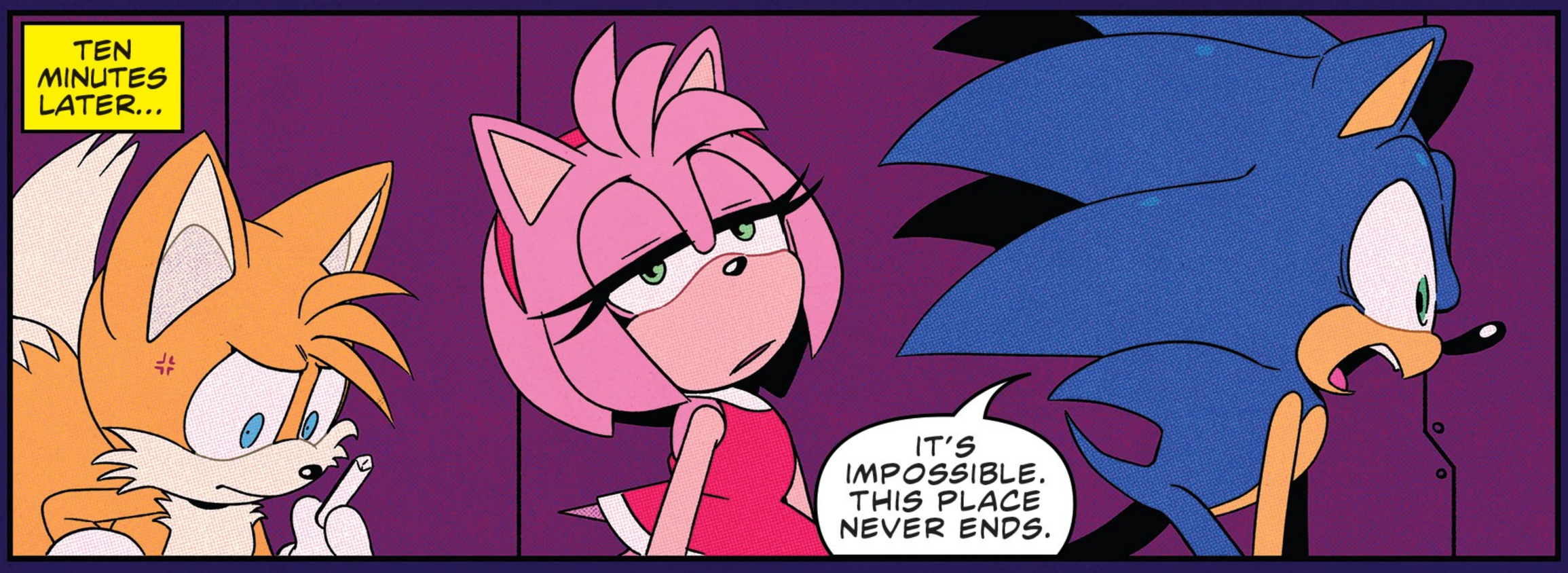
LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS!

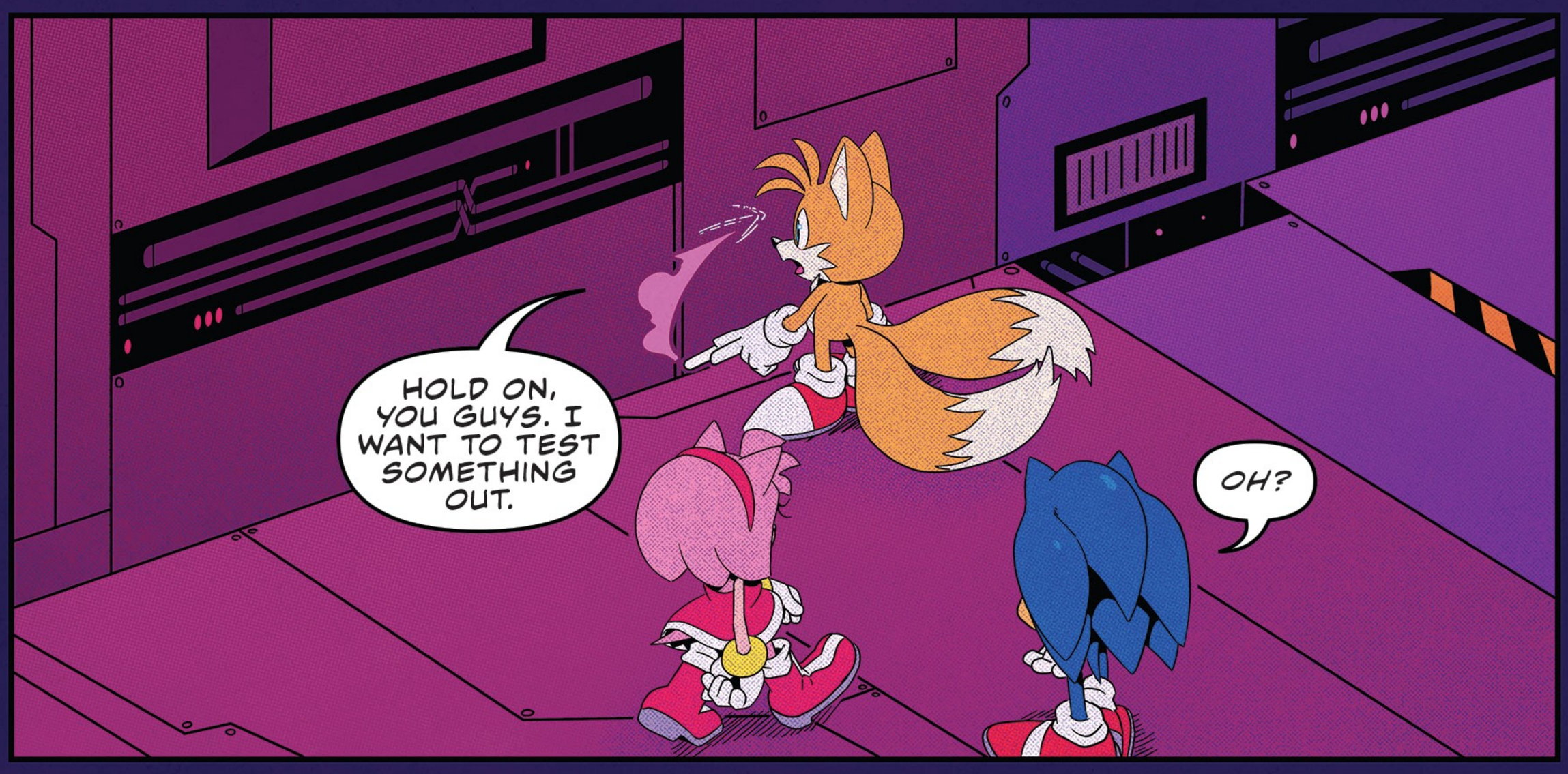

OOH, DIBS!

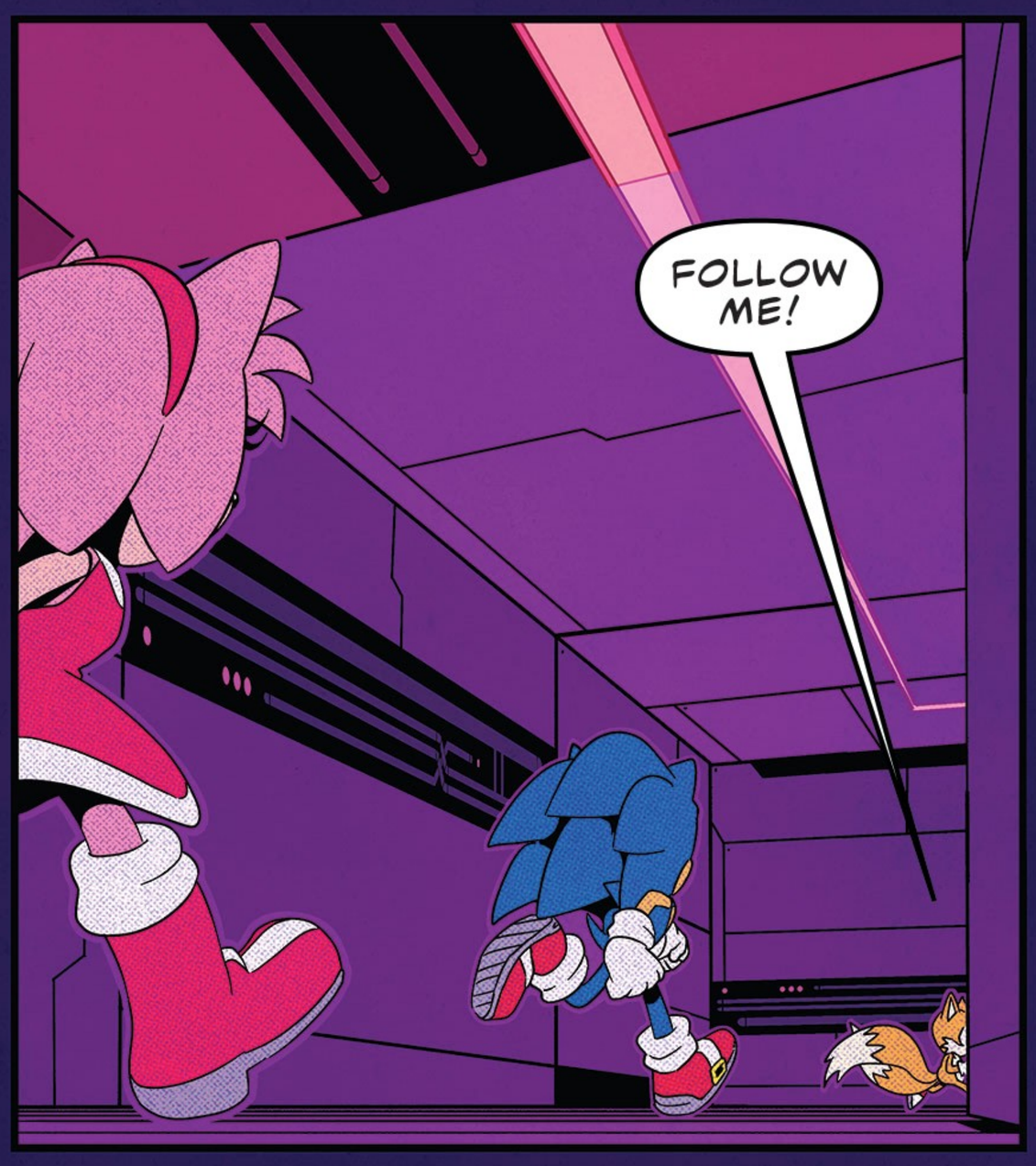

ZWEEE

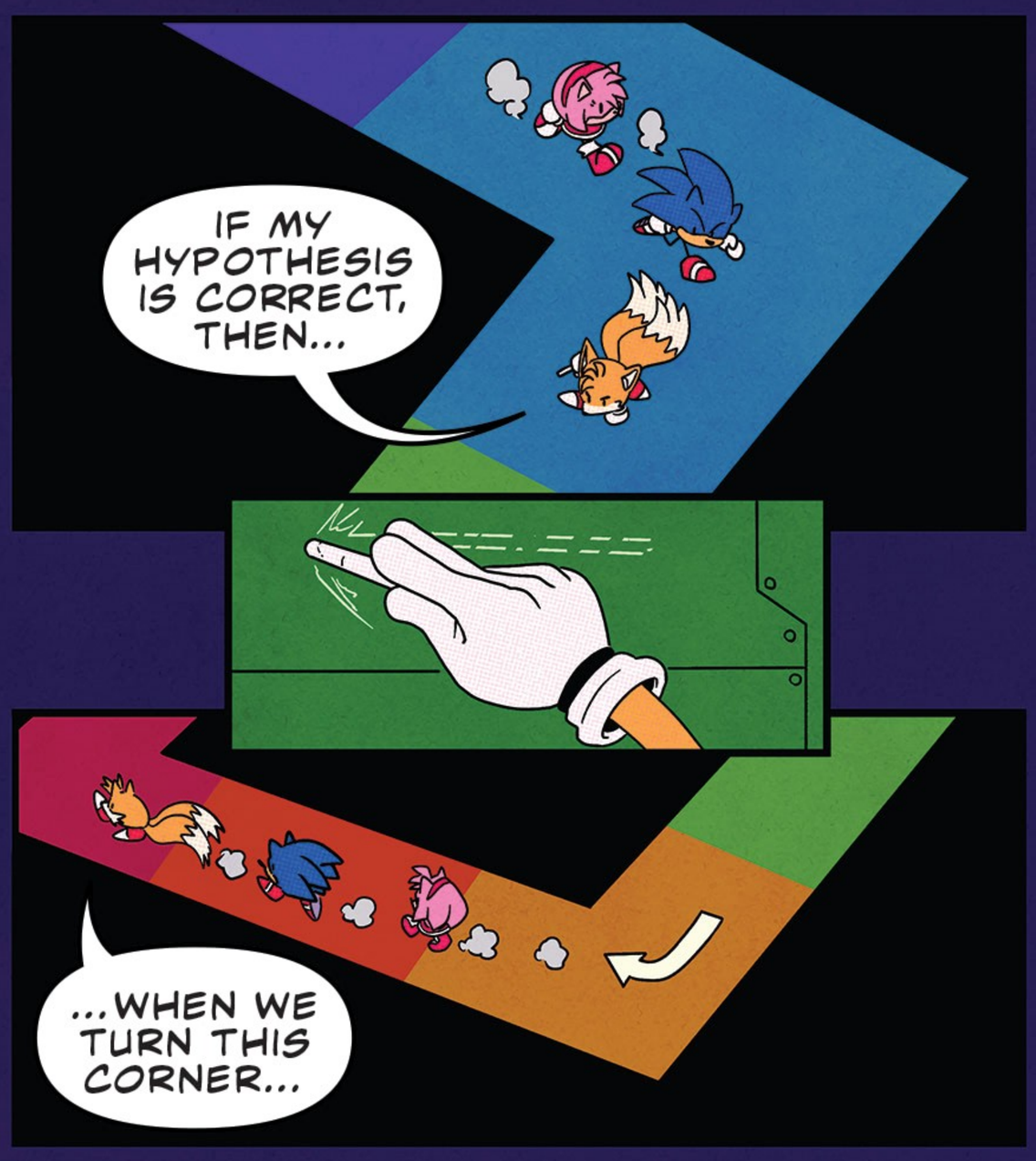

GOTTA BE GETTING CLOSE NOW! WHERE THERE'S 'BOTS, THERE'S SOMETHING WORTH FINDING.
YEAH!
STRANGE... WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS DOING WITH CHALK?

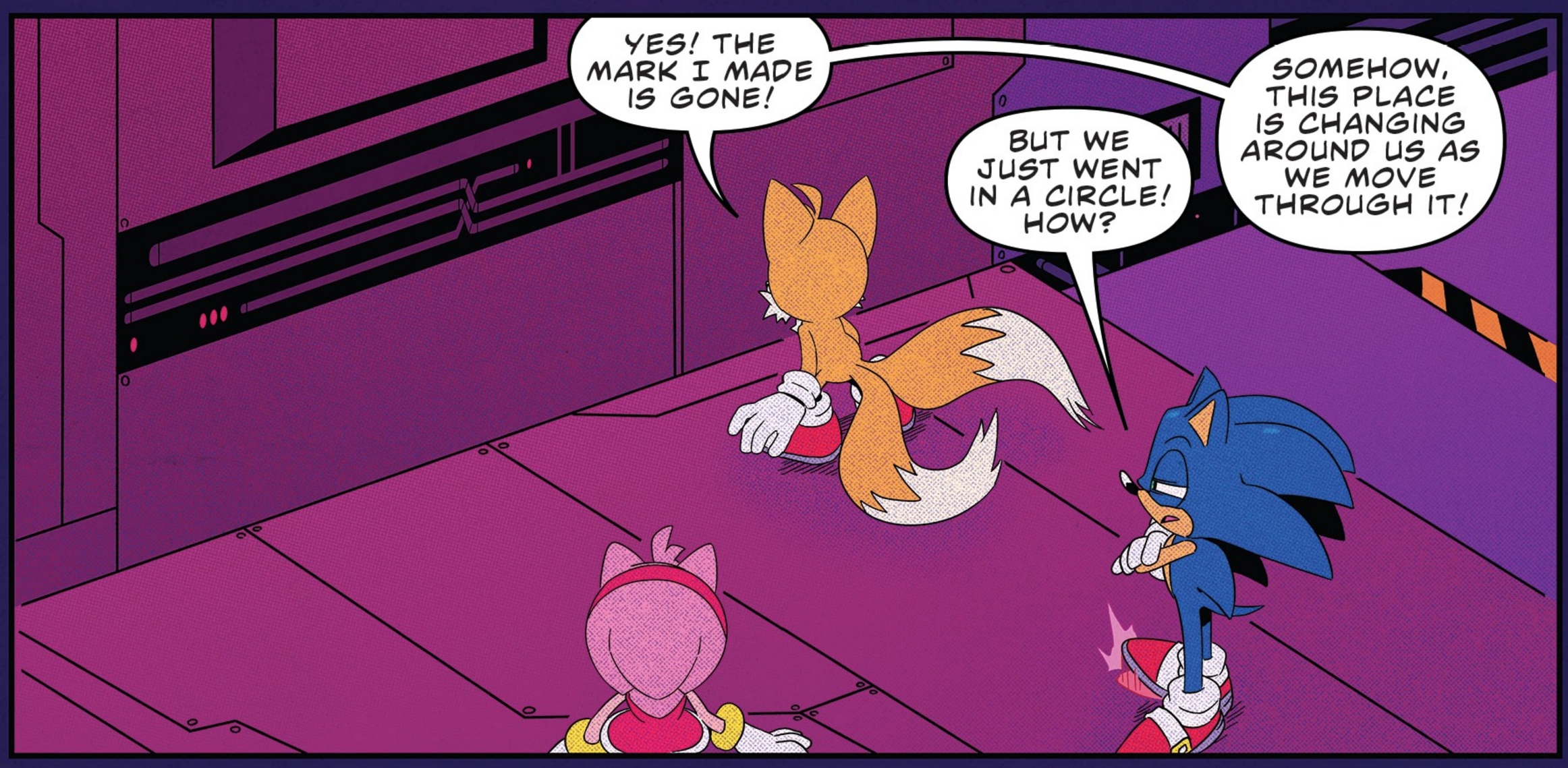

WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT--NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE WHEN WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER!

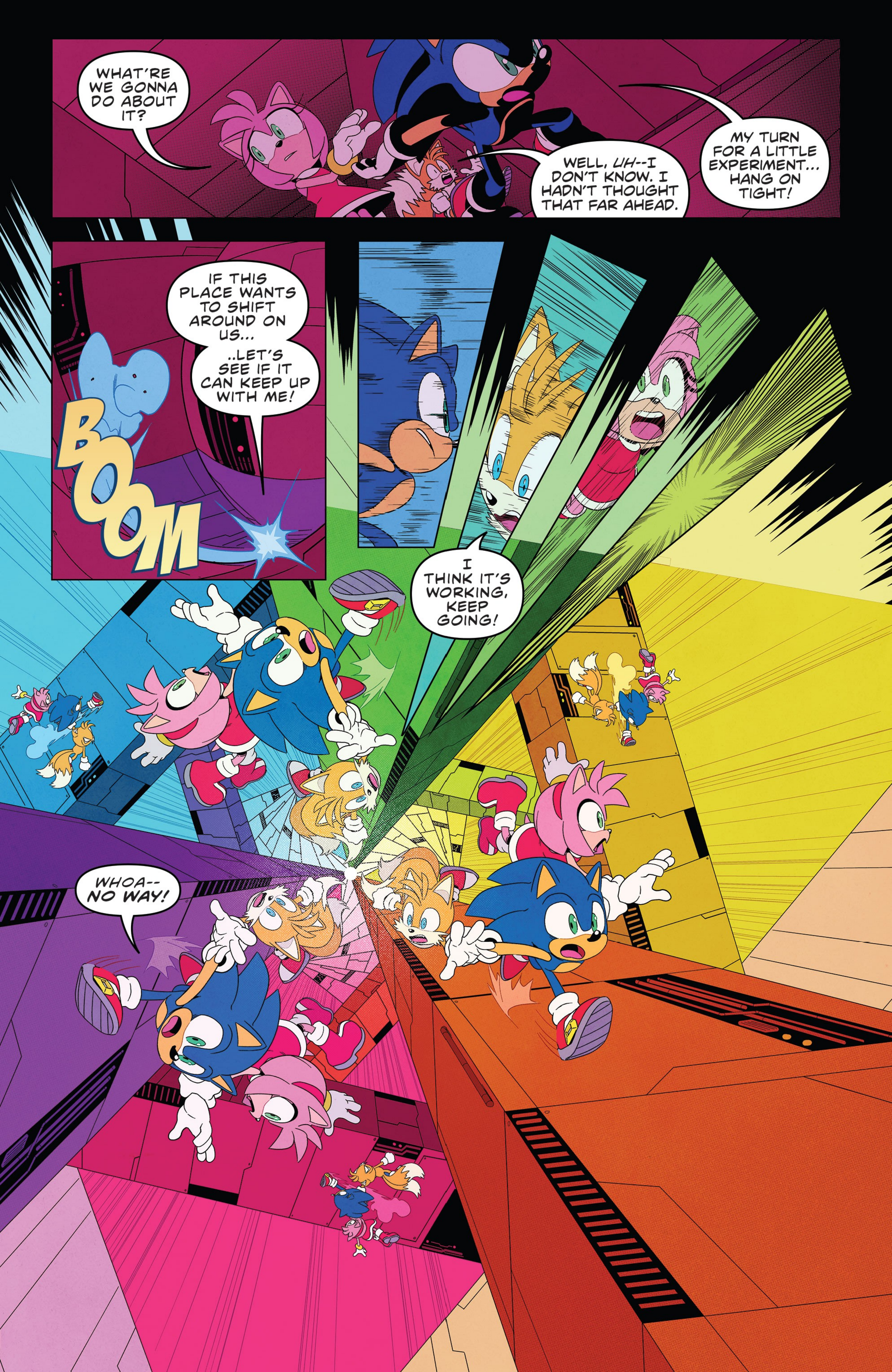

TEN MINUTES LATER...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THIS PLACE NEVER ENDS.


HOLD ON, YOU GUYS. I WANT TO TEST SOMETHING OUT.
OH?


FOLLOW ME!


IF MY HYPOTHESIS IS CORRECT, THEN...
...WHEN WE TURN THIS CORNER...


YES! THE MARK I MADE IS GONE!
BUT WE JUST WENT IN A CIRCLE! HOW?
SOMEHOW, THIS PLACE IS CHANGING AROUND US AS WE MOVE THROUGH IT!


WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
WELL, UH--I DON'T KNOW. I HADN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD.
MY TURN FOR A LITTLE EXPERIMENT... HANG ON TIGHT!
IF THIS PLACE WANTS TO SHIFT AROUND ON US...
..LET'S SEE IF IT CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!
BOOM
I THINK IT'S WORKING, KEEP GOING!
WHOA-- NO WAY!

WHERE TO NOW?
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHICH WAY IS UP...
FASTER.
WHUH-- ARE YOU SURE?
NOPE! BUT SOMETHING'S TELLING ME THAT IF WE CAN OUT-PACE THIS MAZE, THEN...
...WE CAN BREAK IT TOO!
PIKO
?!
NEXT TIME: A BACKSTAGE PASS!

NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Greetings, Sonic Squad! Whoa… there are like six Sonics on that last page… how are they going to escape the tower!? Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Adam Bryce Thomas, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for the "Test Run," part one! Now, let's check out your art and get to know a little bit more about artist ***Adam Bryce Thomas!***

ART BY LUISA

I absolutely loved Chao Races and Badnik Bases! What a phenomenal first arc for Evan Stanley both artistically and in the writing. Speaking of the art, I absolutely loved both Evan's lineart in the three issues of the arc she drew and Reggie Graham's absolutely fantastic coloring work. They're a phenomenal duo and I hope we see them working together in the comics more going forward <3

On the writing side, I loved getting to see so much of Amy, Rouge, and Cream who all had so many amazing moments! Shadow was great in this arc as well and I hope we get to see more of his caring side that was in this arc going forward. And Belle was so wonderful! An amazing character who I hope sticks around to be a regular member of the cast because I really want to see more of her.

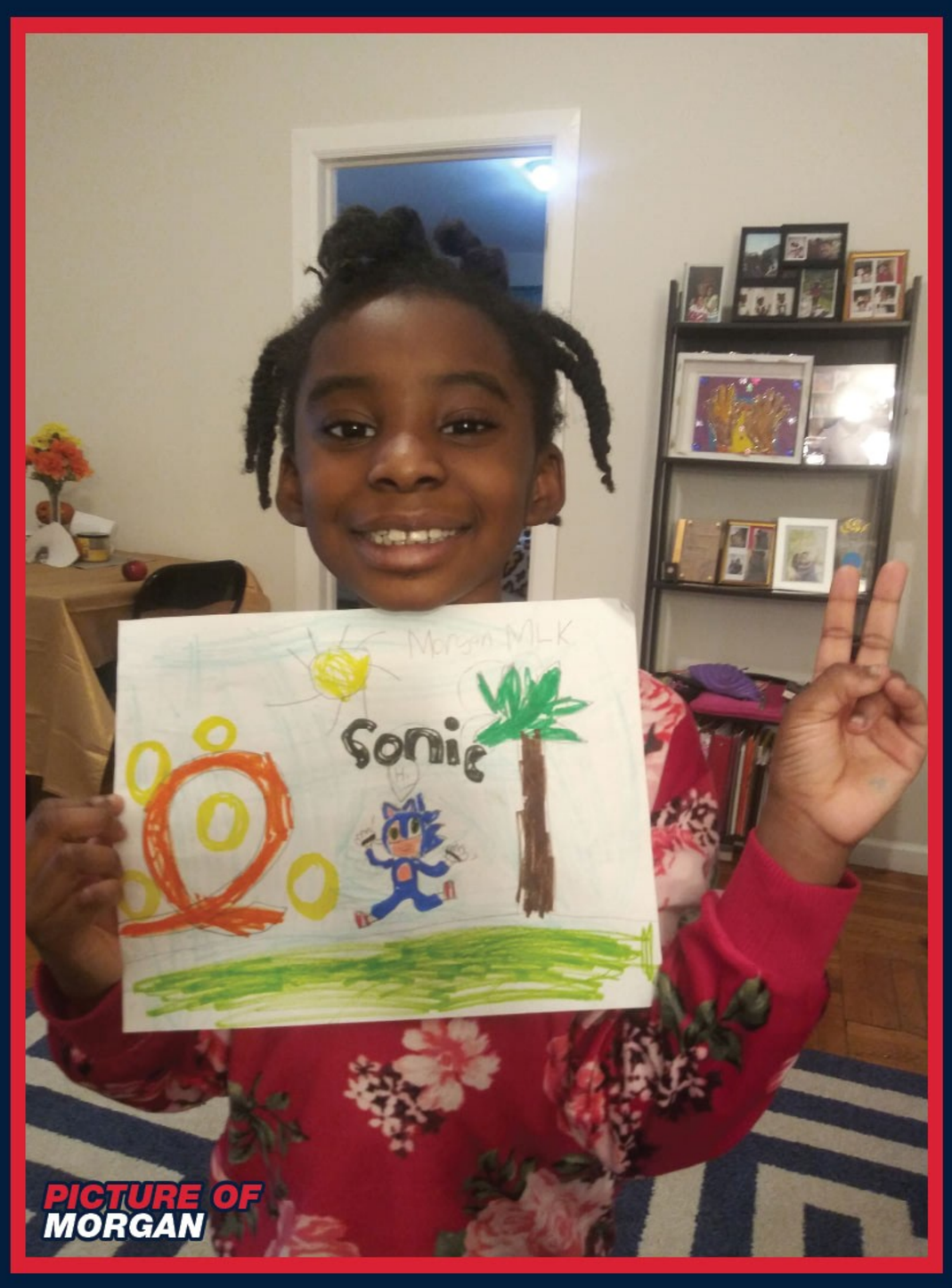
Sincerely, Cluster

Hi, Cluster!

Thank you so much for your kind words, we are thrilled to have Evan as a writer on the book and so delighted that fans have enjoyed her first arc. It's always so special, too, when a writer can illustrate their own story, as they can make slight script adjustments as the art takes on a life of its own. But it's also great when other artists and colorists take over art duties as they bring a new perspective to a script and story that keeps things interesting.

Now that Amy is free of Restoration duties, I think we'll be seeing a lot more of her! Cream probably has some TV to catch up on, Rouge has to steal some jewels, and Shadow has to do… whatever Shadow does, but Belle will be sticking around! She's working to find her place in the Restoration and the world.

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, find out what other mysteries the tower holds in "Test Run," part two!



PICTURE OF MORGAN

CREATOR CORNER:

ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

1.What part of the Sonic comics do you create?

Linework mostly. Sometimes a colorist, but I much prefer going back to grayscale at the moment.

2. Who's your favorite Sonic character in the IDW books?

Metal Sonic hands down.

3. How do you take your chili dog?

Homemade potato bun, split and fried garlic knockwurst, strong bit of whole grain mustard, a hearty black and kidney bean chili, perhaps tinged with sauerkraut or jammy onions, sprinkles of freshly shredded aged cheddar.

4. How did you first discover Sonic?

When I was very young a friend of mine had a SEGA Genesis and a copy of Sonic 1 and 2. I mostly watched him and his brother play them. Later I rediscovered and played most of the major titles in my teens.

5. What was the first IDW Sonic issue you worked on?

Issue #2.

6.What's a boring fact about yourself?

I'm a HUGE coffee snob.

7. What's your favorite comic (besides Sonic)?

Kentaro Miura's Berserk.

8.What do you do when you're not drawing working on Sonic?

Drawing/working on other comics, freelance gigs, and Ian Flynn and I's webcomic Drogune.

9. What's the most unusual Sonic thing you own?

An old 1993 McDonald's toy of Sonic where you press a button and he shoots forward on wheels from a red, mangled lump of plastic.

10. If you could go to dinner with one Sonic character, who would it be and why?

Probably the Chaotix. They seem like they'd drive the conversation and be pretty chill.

11. What kind of animal would you be in Sonic's universe?

Owl.

ART EVAN STANLEY

ART JONATHAN GRAY COLORS REGGIE GRAHAM

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

20 YEARS OF IDW
ISSUE 1
COVER A
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
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ARTIST **EVAN STANLEY**
COLORIST **MATT HERMS**
LETTERER **SHAWN LEE**
ASSISTANT EDITOR **MEGAN BROWN**
EDITOR **DAVID MARIOTTE**

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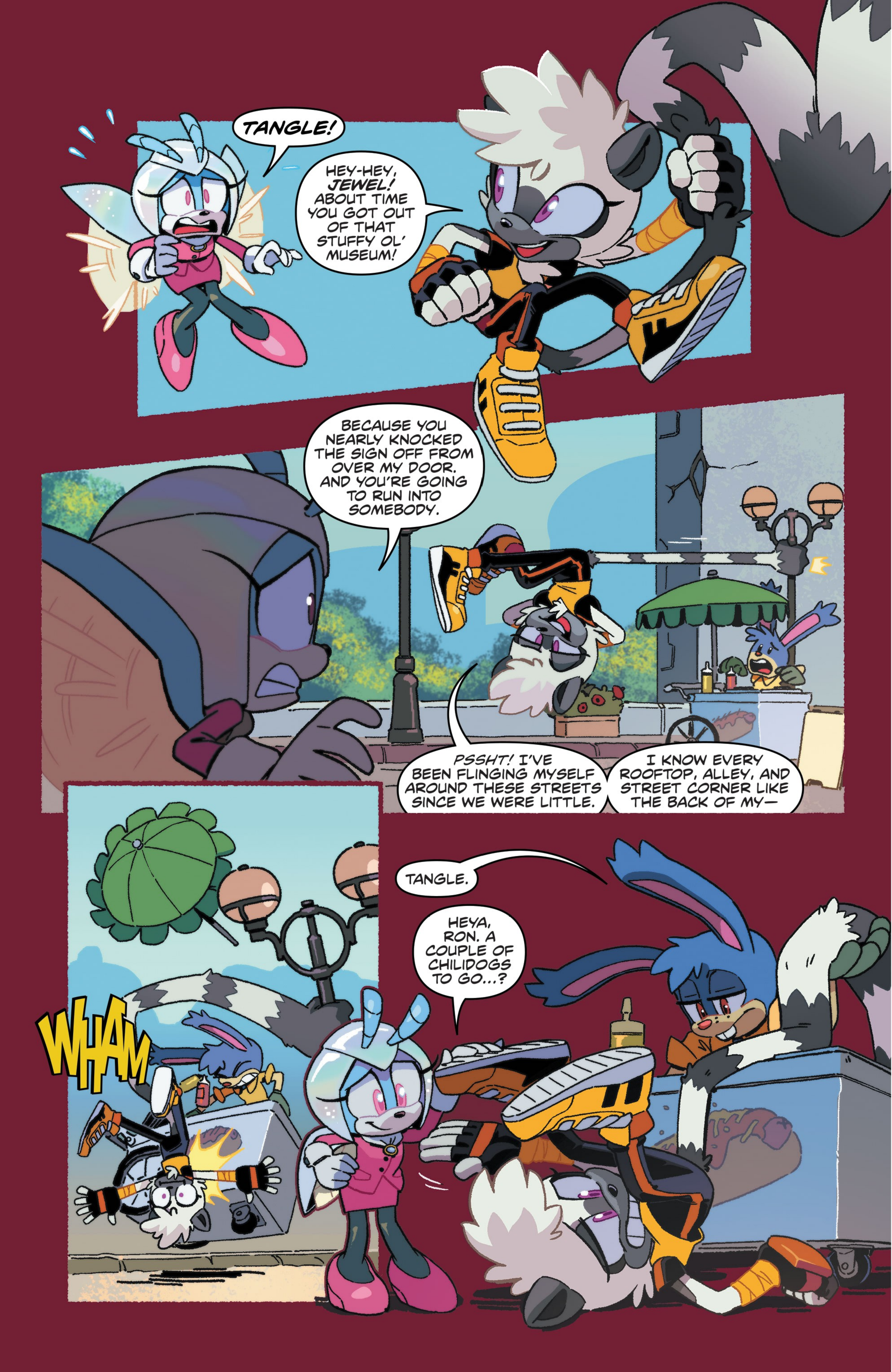
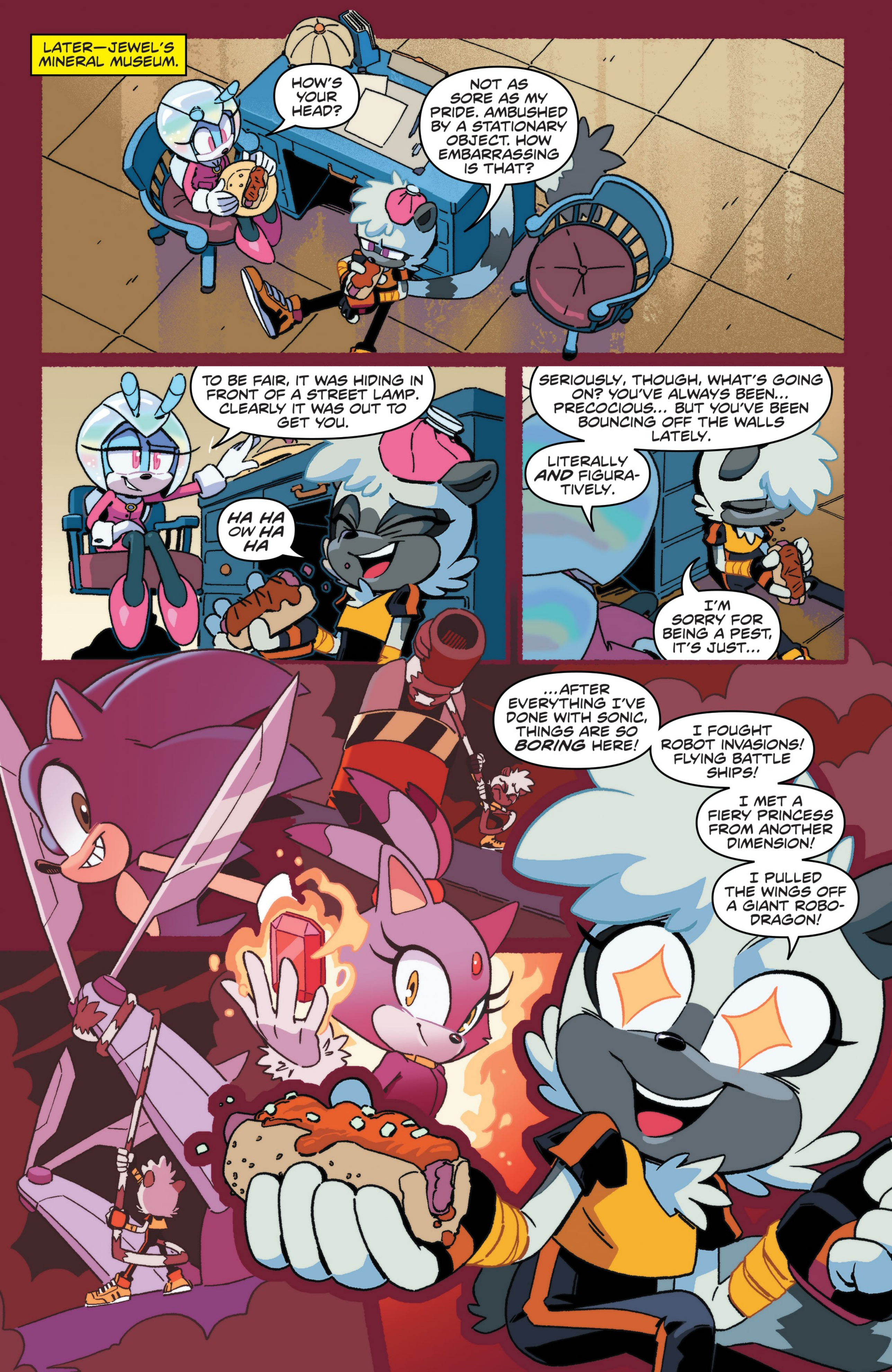
SPIRAL HILL VILLAGE.
C'MON EVERYONE! IT'S A GORGEOUS DAY!
RACE YA AROUND THE VILLAGE! ANYONE! EVERYONE!


TANGLE!
HEY-HEY, JEWEL! ABOUT TIME YOU GOT OUT OF THAT STUFFY OL' MUSEUM!
BECAUSE YOU NEARLY KNOCKED THE SIGN OFF FROM OVER MY DOOR. AND YOU'RE GOING TO RUN INTO SOMEBODY.
PSSHT! I'VE BEEN FLINGING MYSELF AROUND THESE STREETS SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.
I KNOW EVERY ROOFTOP, ALLEY, AND STREET CORNER LIKE THE BACK OF MY—
WHAM
TANGLE.
HEYA, RON. A COUPLE OF CHILIDOGS TO GO...?


LATER—JEWEL'S MINERAL MUSEUM.
HOW'S YOUR HEAD?
NOT AS SORE AS MY PRIDE. AMBUSHED BY A STATIONARY OBJECT. HOW EMBARRASSING IS THAT?
TO BE FAIR, IT WAS HIDING IN FRONT OF A STREET LAMP. CLEARLY IT WAS OUT TO GET YOU.
HA HA OW HA HA
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN... PRECOCIOUS... BUT YOU'VE BEEN BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS LATELY.
LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING A PEST, IT'S JUST...
...AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WITH SONIC, THINGS ARE SO BORING HERE!
I FOUGHT ROBOT INVASIONS! FLYING BATTLE SHIPS!
I MET A FIERY PRINCESS FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!
I PULLED THE WINGS OFF A GIANT ROBO-DRAGON!

AND I COME HOME TO PEACE AND QUIET. I CAN'T STAND IT.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. SO WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM BEING LIKE SONIC? GOING OUT THERE AND FINDING YOUR OWN ADVENTURES?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT. SURE, IT'S TEMPTING, BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN HERE?
EGGMAN'S ROBOTS ATTACKED ONCE.*
IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.
*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #4.

AND IT'D BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'D BE FLYING SOLO. LONELY BEFORE YOU EVEN LEAVE?
THAT, AND NERVOUS. I WOULDN'T HAVE YOU TO WATCH MY BACK.
-INFO-

CRASH

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THE BABYLON ROGUES CAME BACK!*
I'LL CHECK IT OUT! YOU HIDE AND TRY NOT TO LOOK EXPENSIVE— HAHA!
*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ANNUAL 2019.

SONIC?
HOURS

SONIC UNDER ATTACK?!

SONIC UNDER ATTACK FROM WHISPER?!

20 YEARS OF IDW
ISSUE 1
COVER A
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
TANGLE & WHISPER
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